



VOL. III NO. 42

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1948.

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P.G.

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BLUNT CRITICISM OF NANKING GOVT.

Bren Gun
Battle
In Haifa

Jerusalem Prison Break

Jerusalem, Feb. 20.—Armoured cars of British police and parachute troops swept through the central streets of Haifa today, engaging battling groups of Arabs and Jews with Bren gun fire, while the wounded crawled away over piles of broken glass to shelter.

Police and army posts joined in the battle, trying to silence groups of snipers crouching on roofs and in the windows of houses.

Shells from a Jewish mortar battery exploded in the eastern railway station, in the market place and inside the perimeter of police headquarters.

The fighting was still going on at 10 p.m. local time tonight.

First official reports listed four dead and over 50 wounded.

Twelve Jewish prisoners today broke out of the Central Prison here by tunnelling under the prison wall and so startling a manhunt by British troops and police throughout Central Jerusalem.

Sirens sounded and traffic was halted as armoured cars raced through the streets seeking the prisoners. All vehicles in the city were checked by the Army and the police.

The escape was discovered when the prison authorities found the tunnel leading from a cell to a manhole in the road outside the prison.

SECOND MASS ESCAPE

It was the second mass escape this month from the prison, which is in the middle of the most heavily guarded security zone in the city, containing also the police headquarters and the most important Government buildings.

A non-quota Jewish immigrant ship with 700 passengers, intercepted off the Palestine coast last night, was boarded by a Royal Navy party today and was being escorted to Haifa.

(A petition by Palestine Jews detained at Gilgil, Kenya, asking the Governor "when they may hope for release and repatriation," was said today to be receiving urgent attention from the British Government, a Reuter despatch from Nairobi said.

(Chief Rabbi Louis Isaac Rubinowitz, of the United Hebrew Congregation, Johannesburg, visited the camp this week and later discussed the position with the Kenya Government.

(He told them the 200 detainees—suspected to terrorism and political offences in Palestine—were becoming increasingly restless and the position was deteriorating.)—Reuter.

Incapable Of Conducting Civil War Successfully

MARSHALL'S STATEMENT

Washington, Feb. 20.—Mr George Marshall, Secretary of State, strongly criticised the Chinese National Government and its methods of managing economy and running the civil war when he appeared before the House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee today to ask approval of the \$570 million aid programme to China.

"The United States should not by its actions be put in the position of being charged with direct responsibility for the conduct of the Chinese Government and its political, economic and military affairs," Mr Marshall declared.

Mr Marshall made his statement in response to Republican criticism that the present programme was inadequate and that military aid should be added to the material and economic assistance already envisaged.

SOONG AS PREMIER?

Speculations Rife In Canton

Canton, Feb. 20.—As the military situation in North China becomes more acute almost daily and American aid to China is beginning to take final shape, political observers in Canton are predicting another reshuffle of the Chinese Cabinet in Nanking.

The centre of speculation in usually reliable quarters is the future of the Governor of Kwangtung, Dr T. V. Soong.

These sources are predicting that Dr Soong will soon be relinquishing the Governorship of this important southern China province and return to Nanking.

Predictions go as far as naming him as the next Prime Minister—the Secretary of State nevertheless insisted "for the main part the solution of China's problems is largely one for the Chinese themselves."

Mr Marshall described the programme as presenting as a "breathing space" which could help to arrest the present rapid rate of economic deterioration, but stressed that the political, economic and financial conditions in China are so unstable and so uncertain that it is impossible to develop a practical long-term overall programme for economic recovery.

He rejected the idea of a currency stabilisation fund for China at this time, saying that monetary experts think "it would require large sums, which would be largely dissipated under the present conditions of war financing and civil disruption."

Mr Marshall admitted that the Chinese Government, under Commodity pressure, would collapse in a year or so, Mr Marshall replied: "The situation is deteriorating rapidly there, particularly in Northern China."

He said the American position in Korea would not be affected by the Communists gaining control in North China, but he added that such an event would "make our position very difficult in Japan."

Asked whether American national security was in greater jeopardy in Europe than in China, he said it was.

He frequently avoided controversial questions by saying he would prefer to answer them when the Committee went into secret session in the day.

RAISES A SERIOUS DOUBT THAT THE CHINESE PROGRAMME IS JUSTIFIED

Representative Walter Judd, of Minnesota, declared.

Mr Judd, a former China missionary, said that the Chinese programme should equal the Greek programme in all respects and allow for the establishment of a military mission to advise "at all levels" and for the supply of arms and ammunition.

DEMAND FOR MACARTHUR

The Committee indicated today that it wants General Douglas MacArthur to come home and advise it on the Chinese and Far Eastern problems.

The Chairman of the Committee, Mr Charles Eaton, asked the Secretary of State how to go about bringing General MacArthur back from Tokyo.

Mr Marshall said he did not know whether the request should go to the President or to the Secretary of the Army. General MacArthur comes under the Army Department.

Mr Marshall told the Committee that if a parallel consideration of the China aid programme would delay European recovery, it should be set aside.

The situation in both areas were urgent, he said, but since the European programme was a sound one, aimed at permanent recovery, it was more imperative to have it passed in a very short time.

Asked whether American national security was in greater jeopardy in Europe than in China, he said it was.

He frequently avoided controversial questions by saying he would prefer to answer them when the Committee went into secret session in the day.

DETERIORATING SITUATION

Asked whether, without aid, the Chinese Government, under Commodity pressure, would collapse in a year or so, Mr Marshall replied:

"The situation is deteriorating rapidly there, particularly in Northern China."

He said the American position in Korea would not be affected by the Communists gaining control in North China, but he added that such an event would "make our position very difficult in Japan."

Asked what steps the Chinese Government should take in helping itself, Mr Marshall said many of the steps he could not recommend in public, "but it is fundamental for the Chinese Government to develop a base of government, not restricted to a small group, and cleaned up."

"They should do more for their people—the lower classes. They must have certain basic military needs and material. They must have good leadership. They have been hampered by having to combine the political and military in their leadership."

Mr Marshall commented in strong terms on the military situation in China.

The fatal defect at the present time is their failure to train men in the ranks, and to train effective leadership," he said.

"While I was in China, and even more recently, I advised every appropriate official of the Chinese Government to do this. They could and can still do this—any day in the week."

"They listened sympathetically, but they did nothing. It has not been for lack of advice."—Reuter.

EDITORIAL

H.K. & The Boyce Report

THE report of Sir Leslie Boyce's Trade Mission to China has at last come off the printing presses, 14 months after the Mission ended its visit. This delay, however, does not deprive the report of any of its pertinence; rather are several conclusions which the Mission reached lent added forcefulness by the conditions prevailing at this moment in China. The report is becomingly cautious in estimating the prospects of increased and more profitable trading between Britain and China, wisely insisting that prerequisites for any appreciable expansion are peace and economic stability within the country. A chapter is devoted to Hongkong, full of interesting opinions and containing a number of suggestions. The chief recommendations are that a United Kingdom Trade Representative be sent to Hongkong; the Trades Union Congress should consider sending experienced representatives here to advise labour leaders on the organisation of their unions; something should be done to re-establish the Hongkong University; Hongkong should be regarded as an exhibition for British goods, and used as such; relations between the trading interests—and the Government of the Colony and South China should be brought even closer than they are today. The first of the Mission's recommendations has al-

ready been acted upon. A British trade representative is now here and has started on his task of establishing closer trade relations between China, Hongkong and Britain. The attention which the Mission devoted to the potentialities of the Hongkong University as a medium for training Chinese in western methods of administration deserves close and sympathetic consideration by the Court of the University. The proposition gains emphasis in light of the promised municipal reform and its attendant demands for a wider appreciation of civic responsibility among the general public. The Mission clearly envisages the University substantially expanding, but this touches the subject of what, if any assistance the Imperial Government is prepared to give. The prospects of any important financial aid from London are discouraging, the attitude displayed so far being that the University should endeavour to find its own feet. While this persists, the Hongkong University must struggle along on a shoe-string, with little or no opportunities of implementing the Boyce recommendations, no matter how sensible and attractive they may be. Nevertheless, if it has sufficient initiative, Hongkong can put into effect several of the Mission's suggestions, to the mutual advantage of the Colony and our next-door neighbour, South China.

"To meet these additional needs for foreign exchange, China will have available certain financial resources of her own. These include proceeds from exports, miscellaneous receipts from such sources as overseas remittances, the sale of surplus property, foreign government and philanthropic expenditures in China, and finally—to be called on if necessary—China's reserves of gold and foreign exchange, which were estimated equivalent to \$274 million as of January 1, 1948."

In background documents simultaneously presented to the Committee, the State Department disclosed that the \$570 million would be spent thus: wheat and rice \$130 million; cotton \$150 million, petroleum \$110 million, fertiliser \$30 million, tobacco \$28 million, metals \$24 million, pharmaceuticals \$5 million, coal \$3 million, machinery repair parts \$30 million.

An additional \$60 million will be spent on reconstruction projects to be decided on by the administrator of the programme.

The Republican Representatives on the Committee criticised the aid plan. "To put in economic aid without enough for military aid

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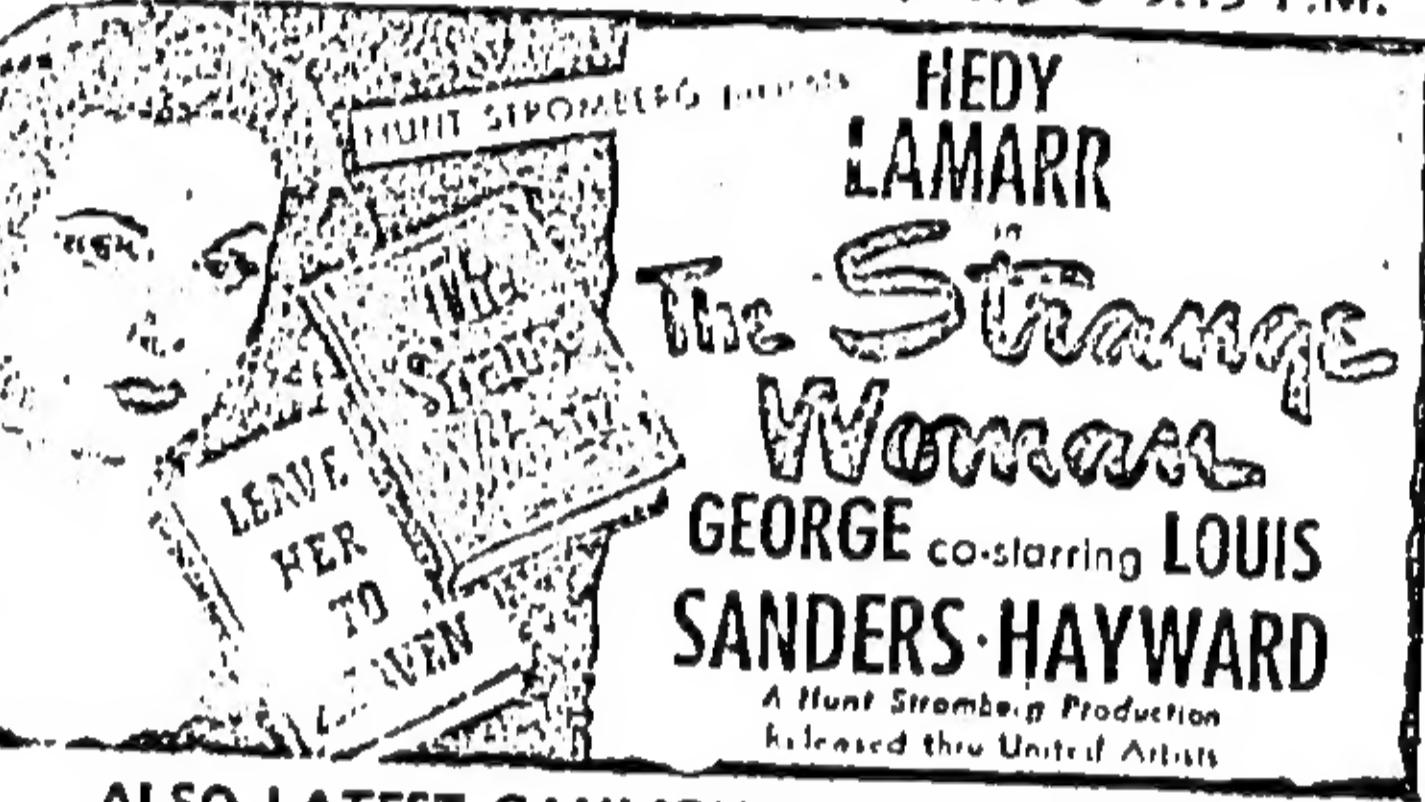
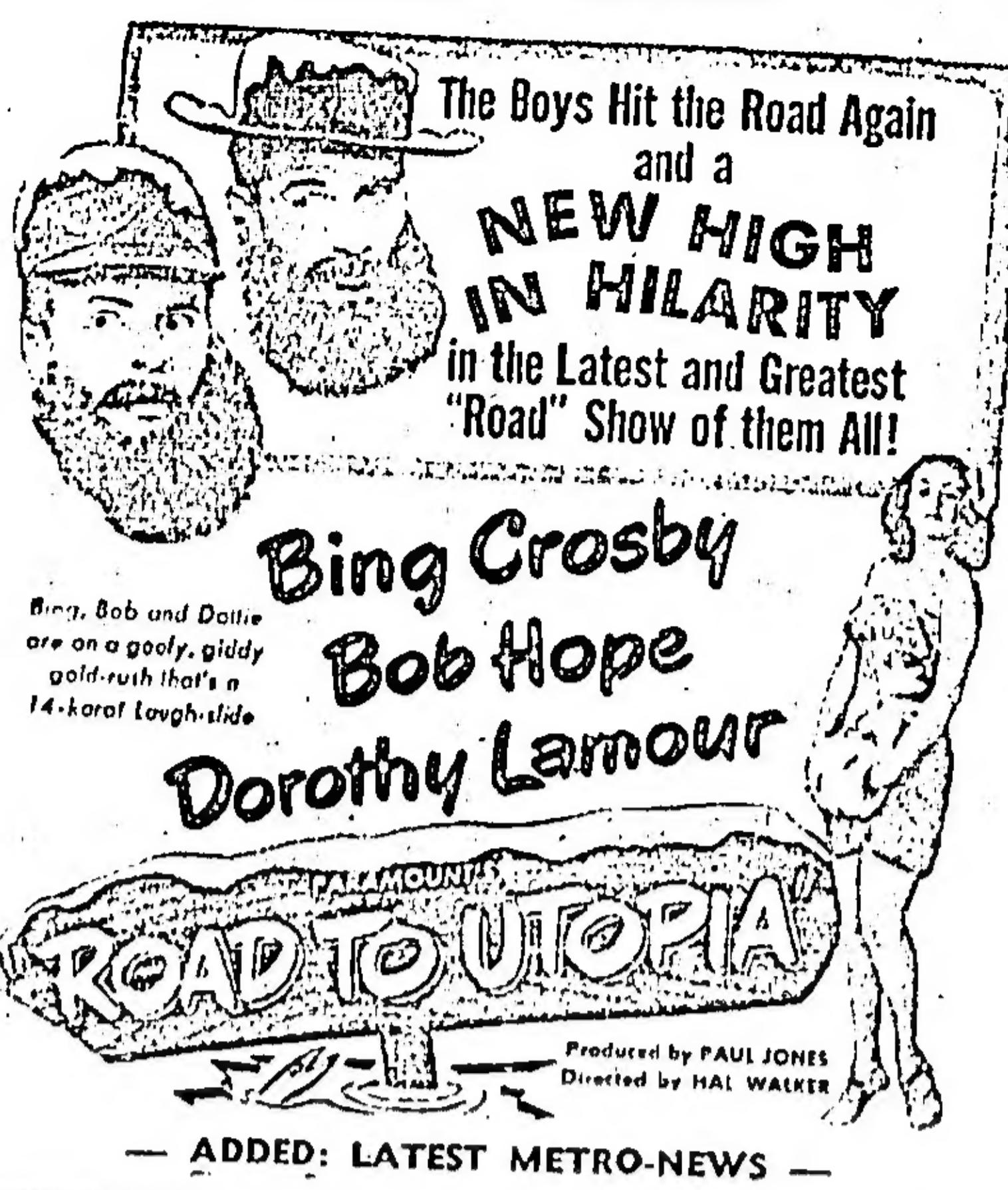
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SHOWING
TO-DAY**KING'S**At 2.30, 5.15,
7.20 & 9.30 p.m.

ALSO LATEST GAUMONT BRITISH NEWS

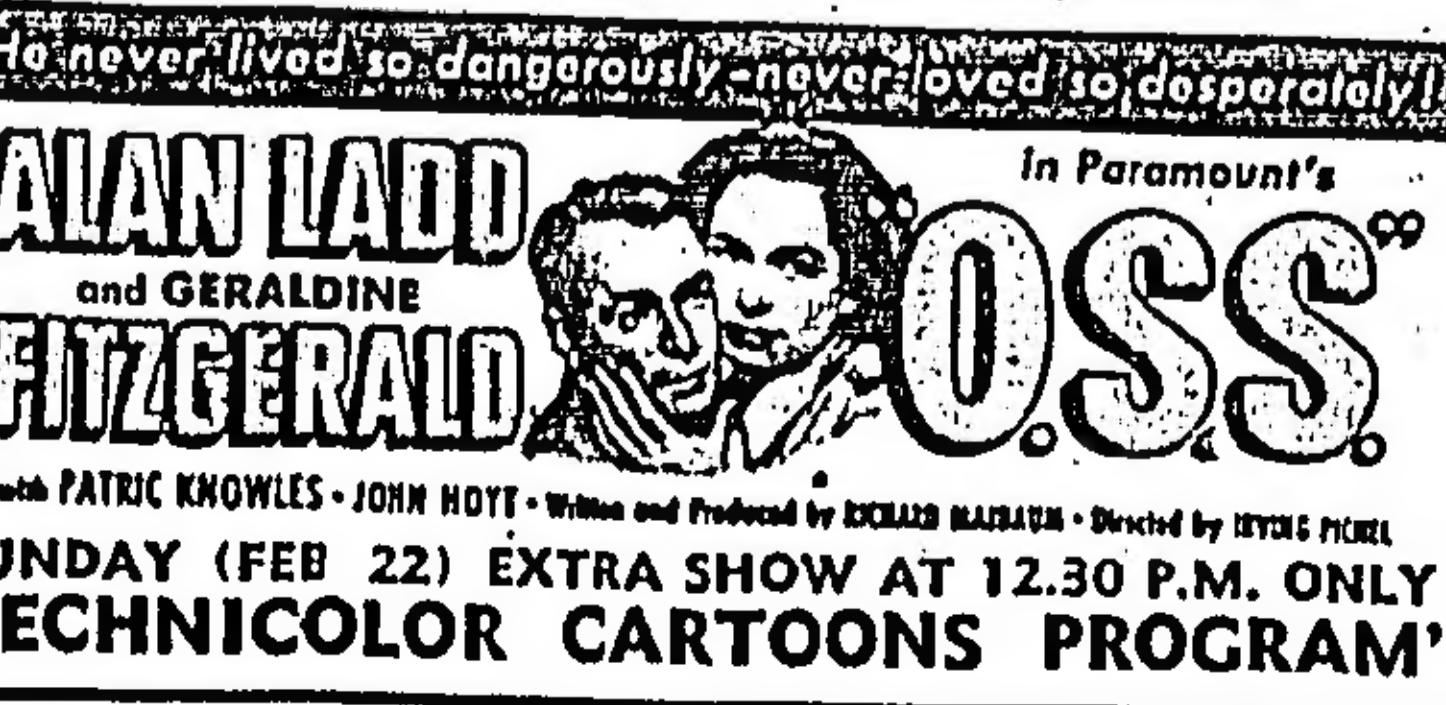
MORNING SHOW TO-MORROW AT 11.30 A.M. ONLY!
MARCH of TIME: 'Germany, Handled with Care'
TERRYTOON IN TECHNICOLOR!
COMEDY: "DO YOU REMEMBER?"
AT REDUCED PRICES: DRESS CIRCLE \$1.50 Incl. Tax
STALLS \$1.00

ORIENTALSHOWING TO-DAY: 2.30—5.15—7.20—9.20 P.M.
OUTLAW TRIBESMEN SPREADING TERROR IN A PERIL-LADEN WILDERNESS! THRILL-RAGING ROMANTIC ADVENTURE IN WONDROUS NEW VITACOLOR!

SHOWING
TO-DAY
MAJESTIC AT USUAL
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PLEASE NOTE THE SPECIAL TIMES:
AT 12.00, 3.00, 6.00 & 9.00 P.M.



WINNER OF NINE ACADEMY AWARDS!

SHOWING TO-DAY **CATTIVI** AT 2.30, 5.20,
7.20 & 9.20 p.m.
THE SCREEN'S MOST SECRET ADVENTURE!

GLAMOUR is not the way to fame

BY HOLLYWOOD success can be a dangerous thing on which stars can slip and tumble and break their professional necks. I know, for it happened to me.

It has happened to a lot of other film people, too, like Al Jolson and Louise Ruiner. Too much success can put you in a hole. It takes cold nerve, brains and a lot of luck to get out.

Take, for instance, Al Jolson. He became the world's richest actor and lolled around basking in Florida's fabulous sunshine until he could not find a job. Or Miss Ruiner. She won two Academy Awards, and ran smack into trouble when ordinary roles made her look bad by comparison with her award-winning pictures.

THE DANGER

OR take my own case. It shows how danger can lurk behind what appears to be Hollywood's most successful moments. It also illustrates that there is a brighter side. It all started one day when a so-called board of experts decided that I was Hollywood's most beautiful woman. Now that was very flattering, and I got a lot of what I thought was excellent publicity. But it also caused me away from stardom into a channel of "glamour" roles, almost completely devoid of any real drama and the chance to show that I was really an actress.

Stars Losing Gypsy Fever

By Carlisle Jones

MOTION picture people have finally learned to "stay put."

Past few years, during which there was a war, a housing shortage and a strict limit on telephones, have brought about a decided change.

Led by Dennis Morgan, who bought and established a permanent home for his family in La Canada, Los Angeles suburb in the hills, film celebrities generally have begun to anchor themselves firmly in established residences and estates.

Even the much-travelled Errol Flynn, is firmly fixed in residence in the steeper hills of Mulholland Drive.

Humphrey Bogart and Lauren Bacall have settled down in the domain of their very own, and Claude Raines is tied to his Pennsylvania farm. Bette Davis, likewise, has her Buttermilk farm near Sugar Hill, New Hampshire, and also owns a beach house at Laguna, California. She refers to both as permanent addresses, Became Allergic

Jean Crawford, has occupied the same house in Brentwood since the beginning of her stardom in pictures. Jack Carson keeps his Van Nuys home and Dame Clark has about completed the rebuilding of his residence in West Los Angeles—on permanent lines.

Ann Sheridan is happy with her Encino ranchette; Eleanor Parker is substantially housed with her husband in Beverly Hills; and Barbara Stanwyck, who moved from her ranch some years ago into the same section, is content to stay right there.

And why this new yen for the old home and fire-side? "Perfectly simple," said Jack Carson, who used to be one of Hollywood's maddened gadabouts. "We became allergic to evictions."

AFTER working for a year on the biggest and most expensive project of his career, Sir Laurence Olivier will be twelve thousand miles away when the finished job is ready for inspection.

His film of "Hamlet" is now off the studio floor and in the cutting and editing stage. It has cost £500,000. Its box office takings will be the biggest single factor in the

THEIR FOURTH 'ROAD' PICTURE



BING CROSBY, Bob Hope and Dorothy Lamour team up for a fourth time in "Road to Utopia," bowing in today at the King's Theatre. Reputedly their funniest "Road" picture to date, the film was produced by Paul Jones and directed by Hal Walker, the man responsible for such musical hits as "Out of This World," "Duffy's Tavern" and "The Stork Club."

Written by Norman Panama and Melvin Frank, the script is a plotless take-off on the old gold-rush days when fortune hunters hiked north to the Yukon in search of buried treasure. In "Road to Utopia" Bob and

Dorothy set out to rescue Dorothy's inherited gold mine from two desperate thugs. Also included in the cast are Hillary Brooke, Douglas Dumbrille and Jack La Rue.

Johnny Burke and James Van Heusen provided the musical score with such numbers as "It's Anybody's Dream," "Put It There Pal" and "Personality," sung by the three stars.

"Road to Utopia" is considered even funnier than the three previous "Road" pictures with the same



The author of this article once voted the most beautiful woman in Hollywood... says that was the worst thing that could have happened to her.

I kicked off my high heels and rolled down my silk stockings and stood in my bare feet. I told producers they could not give glamour to a girl who was barefooted, and stuck by my guns!

I went back home to Mexico City and walked barefoot into Spanish language films. I played everything from old croons to peasant girls, always barefoot.

My plan was working. I won several awards for acting—three from Mexico's Ministry of Culture and one from the International Board at Cannes (France) with "Maria Candelaria," which was judged as the best last year.

SECOND CHANCE

IN fact, it was "Maria Candelaria" that gave me my second chance in Hollywood. I was pleased when Director John Ford said after seeing it: "She's not a beauty—she's an actress."

It brought me a contract to star in Errol Flynn's picture, "The Fugitive," with Henry Fonda. But there was one thing: I insisted on before signing the contract. When you see the picture you will know what it was. Again I play the part of a girl named Maria—and in my bare feet!

BY DOLORES DEL RIO

I can still remember in the not so long ago that theinkle of chagne glasses was music to my ears, and that I was trying awfully hard to be radiant and smiling all over the place. I was innocent of any knowledge that all the parties and glamour occasions concealed what was almost "the kiss of death" for my career.

A group of America's most famous artists and photographers (as part of the glamour publicity build-up) named me, with great fanfare, as the beauty of Hollywood beauties. My picture appeared in a million places—magazines, newspapers, billboards, everywhere you looked. I was the focus of a big glamour campaign; I was on top of the world.

Constance Bennett and I were chosen the "best dressed women of the year." And then it happened to Connie. Her career shrivelled and died.

AN IDEA

MEANWHILE, I went on being photographed in beautiful clothes and basking in the sunshine of glamour publicity. Then somebody—not an idea—I should be pictured in a white bathing suit, because my tan skin would set it off in an especially ravishing way. Well, perhaps it was a good idea to begin with, since photo editors could not get enough of the pictures for their various publications.

Six months later it dawned on me that I was getting plenty of roles in films with "eye appeal," but nothing with any real drama or character. I wanted to be an actress, not just a glamour girl. I protested—but to no avail. Always the same answer: "You're beautiful, and that's what we exploit!" Only that and nothing more. Professionally speaking, I was a prisoner of beauty—and dying one at that.

I had to do something and do it quick. I had to find a way out. So quick. I had to find a way out. So quick.

Vivien Leigh May Play Salome

SIR RALPH RICHARDSON has jumped right into the top-star class since walking away with the honours in "Anna Karenina."

He has nearly completed work as a butler in the Carol Reed semi-thriller, "Lost Illusion"; and he is to return to the stage next month as a Ruritanian king in Romily Cavan's "Royal Circle," with Lilian Brathwaite.

NOW, I believe, Sir Alexander Korda has another idea for him—to join Richardson and Orson Welles in a film of Oscar Wilde's "Salome."

The idea—still in the discussion stage—is for Richardson as John the Baptist, Welles as Herod, and possibly Vivien Leigh as Salome.

AFTER working for a year on the biggest and most expensive project of his career, Sir Laurence Olivier will be twelve thousand miles away when the finished job is ready for inspection.

His film of "Hamlet" is now off the studio floor and in the cutting and editing stage. It has cost £500,000. Its box office takings will be the biggest single factor in the

Rank organisation's profit-or-loss account this year.

When "Hamlet" has its first showing in the West End, probably next April, Olivier, will be in Australia with his wife, Vivien Leigh, and an Old Vic Company.

JOSEPH PASTERNAK is trying to get his early film pupil, Deanna Durbin, for a remake of "Reunion in Vienna."

The previous version, made in 1933, starred John Barrymore and Diana Wynyard.

If Deanna goes into the picture, it will re-unite the trio which 10 years ago saved Universal from financial disaster with "Three Smart Girls"—Durbin, Pasternak and Henry Kolker.

HANDLESS veteran Harold Russell, winner of two Oscars for "The Best Years of Our Lives," narrowly escaped serious injury recently.

The car in which Russell was riding rolled over twice, and swerved over a 15-foot embankment.

Russell climbed out of the wreckage with a black eye.

Initially, he declares that "The Best Years of Our Lives" is his first and last film. He will finish his studies at Boston University and then accept a position in the New York office of Samuel Goldwyn (who produced that Oscar-winning movie film).

DETER CHEYNEY, without doubt one of the world's best-selling novelists (since 1938 his books have sold more than ten million copies, in every language except Russian and Turkish) is taking no chances with the film version of his "Uncany Terms." Not content with writing the screen play, Cheyney is at hand on the set every day to see that his book is translated faithfully to the screen.

"Uncany Terms," the most recent and among the most successful of all Cheyney's thirty novels, is the first to be filmed. It is a psychological thriller, with an English country setting and an exceptionally ingenious and unusual plot. Good-looking Michael Rennie is playing the part of "Slim" Callaghan, hard-boiled private detective; and the cast also includes Molra Lister, Faith Brook (daughter of veteran actor Clive Brook) and Joy Shelton.

THEATRE Director KING'S—Road to Utopia (Bing Crosby, Bob Hope, Dorothy Lamour)

QUEEN'S—Sinbad the Sailor (Douglas Fairbanks, Jr., Maureen O'Hara, Walter Slezak)

LEE—The Strange Woman (Hedy Lamarr, George Sanders, Louis Hayward)

CENTRAL—San Antonio (Errol Flynn, Alexis Smith)

ORIENTAL—Last of the Redmen (Jon Hall)

CATHAY—O. S. S. (Alan Ladd, Geraldine Fitzgerald)

ALHAMBRAS—San Antonio (Majestic—The Best Years of Our Lives (Myrna Loy, Fredric March, Dana Andrews), Virginia Mayo, Hoagy Carmichael, Cathy O'Donnell and Harold Russell)

STAR—None Shall Escape (Alexander Knox, Marsha Hunt)

SHOWING
TO-DAY

QUEEN'S

You'll find Adventure... Romance... Excitement... Action... Spectacle...

T and Thrills.
when you see

Douglas Fairbanks, Jr.
Maureen O'Hara
Walter Slezak
Sinbad the Sailor
in Technicolor

— TO-MORROW MORNING AT 11.30 A.M.—
THE YEAR'S GREATEST BOXING FILM!
Errol Flynn • Alexis Smith
“GENTLEMAN JIM”
A WARNER BROS. PICTURE — AT REDUCED PRICES!

ALHAMBRAS & CENTRAL
DAILY AT 2.30 5.20 7.20 & 9.20 P.M.
DAILY AT 2.30 5.15 7.15 & 9.15 P.M.

CENTRAL: Extra Performance at 12.30 P.M.

SHOWING TO-DAY

WARNERS' ADVENTURE OF THE CENTURY OUT OF THE CENTURY THAT MADE TEXAS GREAT!



LIVED WITH LOOT AMID SQUALOR

Motherly Mary Swallow, a buxom 50, slow-moving and benighted, has often been seen in West End stores in the past four years. No one ever saw her do anything suspicious.

Yet time after time a customer would miss a handbag she had put down while trying on some garment.

Sometimes handbags disappeared under the eyes of the owners and shop assistants yet no one ever saw their going.

Mary had brought handbags to a fine art. In those four years she stole 140 handbags and their contents, valued together at £2,294.

She lived on the £1,195 she found in the bags, but in a very frugal way.

A Thrill!

Her home in Chepstow-road, Baywater, was one small dark room, very dirty, and unheated for, but packed with luxury articles from the bags which she never used or sold.

Then, one day, she turned from handbag stealing to actual shoplifting.

When the police searched her room, they found £177 in Bank of England notes, a considerable sum in foreign currencies, etc., fountains pens, several gold and silver cigarette cases, jewellery, clothing, coupon books and watches to a total value of £1,000.

Mary told the Recorder at the Old Bailey that she did it all for a thrill. "It's time you took a rest," said the Recorder, sending her to three years penal servitude.

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS

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YOUR RADIO LISTENING FOR NEXT WEEK IN DETAIL — A GUIDE TO YOUR FUTURE

Farewell Programme By Talented Saxophonist

LONDON PLAYHOUSE PRESENTATION

One highlight of next week's ZBW programmes is a farewell performance on Wednesday night by Emilio Salonga, talented and popular saxophonist, who has been broadcasting regularly for some time past.

Mr Salonga is shortly to leave for Manila for special studies and engagements and expects to be away from Hongkong about a year.

On Wednesday, for his last studio broadcast, he will be accompanied by Hermie Milner at the piano.

Another London Playhouse production will be heard at 9.30 on Thursday, when Michael Redgrave, Richard Attenborough, Joan Greenwood and Joan Kent will star in Graham Greene's well-known play "The Man Within."

Eileen Dokker's book review on the same evening will deal with latest novels by Eric Linklater, Pearl Buck and J.B. Priestley.

Full programmes for the coming week follow.



12.30 Daily Programme Summary.

12.30 Edmundo Ros and His Cuban Band and Luis D'Acosta and His Cuban Band.

12.30 Edmundo Ros and His Cuban Band.

A Gozar (Simona) and Luis D'Acosta; Rum and Luminosa (Amsterdam); Edmunds and Ros and His Cuban Band; Capuleto de Ros (Hernandez); Luis D'Acosta, Chico (Porto Rico); Meltuda; Denzona (Nazareth); Edmundo Ros and His Cuban Band; Alma Llanera (Folk Dance of Venezuela); Deanne; Santa Cruz; Edmundo Ros and His Cuban Band.

12.30 Cecilia Taylor; "Otello"; Suite No. 1—Dance from "Otello"; No. 2 Children's Intermezzo; 5 Funeral March; Suite No. 1—William Tell; No. 5 Military March; New Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Sir Malcolm Sargent.

12.35 NEWS, WEATHER REPORT AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

12.35 Orchestral Interlude.

Sependa (Metre) Orchestra, Ruby Goldstein.

12.35 STUDIO: ANDY HIDALGO AND HIS ORCHESTRA.

2.00 Close Down.

6.00 B.R.C. TRANSCRIPTION SERVICE: "MUCH BINDING IN THE MARSH".

A Variety show by Richard Murdoch, featuring Sami, Costello, Murphy, Eddie, and the Blue Moon Dance Band.

12.30 Edmundo Ros and His Cuban Band.



*Since hearing that Independence Day
for Burma was fixed by the stars,
I have had fun finding out about—*

ASTROLOGY

by
**BERNARD
WICKSTEED**

HAVE you read the story of the Burmese Cabinet and the astrologers? We were going to give Burma her independence on January 6, 1948, but the Burmese insisted on January 4, and when pressed to explain they said they were acting on the advice of their astrologers, who changed their minds three times.

January 6, which in our calendar was a Tuesday and Epiphany, was not an auspicious day for launching a new State, they said. The Sunday after the moon's third quarter would be much better. There is nothing much you can say to an answer like that. The British Government agreed, and the King gave his assent.

So that's all right, and let us hope Burma will live happily ever after, but as this is the first time in my memory that the question of astrology has reached Cabinet level it might be interesting to find out something about it.

The official soothsayer

At one time no Government would dream of making an important decision without consulting the astrologers, but Scrope for better or worse the system has dropped out of practice. The nearest we have now to an official soothsayer is the Astronomer Royal, who tells us what the stars will be doing at any particular moment, and leaves the deductions to those who are interested.

Astrology is the study of the stars, and is useful because it helps us to navigate ships, tell the time, and know when it will be high tide.

The astrologers go much further than this. They say that you can use this same knowledge of the stars to foretell the fate and future of human beings.

Astrology probably began when the first caveman noticed that it was light and warm if the sun shone, and dark and cold if it didn't. This knowledge, which must have been considered quite profound at one time, enabled him to predict when would be a good time to go hunting.

Later on some genius discovered that there didn't just happen to be moonlight one night and not another.

There was a regular cycle which enabled you to predict when the moon would shine.

Handbook for amateurs

With information like that your finger tips you could make prophecies which astounded your more ignorant fellows. And when you found that the highest tides came every fortnight when the moon was new or full, you began to feel you were really getting somewhere.

The first people to take up astrology in a big way were the Babylonians. They decided that if light and warmth were governed by the predictable movements of the sun, and the tides were governed by the moon, then everything else must be controlled by one or other of the heavenly bodies. All you had to find out was what governed what.

So the priests got to work and by a system of trial and error they worked out the answer to everything. Saturn was the furthest away of the planets then known and took 29 years to circle the heavens. From this it was obvious that it governed people who were slow and dignified, patient and aloof.

Venus is the brightest of the planets, so it was an elementary deduction that it was her influence which made people merry and gay.

Control by the stars

After the Babylonians the Greeks, the Egyptians, the Romans, and the Mahomedans took it up, and they tabulated more and more associations between the stars and things on earth; Venus, for instance, was claimed to govern such a variety of things as walnut trees, all flowers with sweet smell, rabbits, pheasants, copper, coral, red lips, love, and Friday.

People who do not believe in astrology say these deductions are ridiculous. They say you might as well look at the bumps on a piece of fried liver.

As a matter of fact, in Borneo and parts of Asia and Africa people do foretell the future by looking at bumps of liver. A whole science has been built up round it called hepatoscopy (from the Greek hepatos meaning liver).

The Babylonians and the Greeks used it as an alternative to astrology. Say you wanted to know if a new king would have a long and happy reign, you sacrificed a sheep and then looked for suspicious marks on its liver. The markings and shape of no two livers are exactly alike, so you had plenty of scope.

Marks on the right-hand side were favourable and on the left unfavourable, and a wound meant

plunder. From this it followed that a wound on the right meant you'd get the plunder, and one on the left that someone would plunder you.

Plunder

The Greeks took it so seriously that they brought out a handbook for amateurs on the lines of modern publications which tell you how to read a tea-cup.

But good comes out of most things, and the Ancients got so interested in the study of liver that they began looking at other parts of the animals they killed, and that was the beginning of veterinary surgery.

Now for a story proving that men are not the only astrologers. There is a fish in the Pacific called the grunion, that lays its eggs on the beaches of California on the fourth day after full moon and at no other time. If the Babylonians had known about grunions they would have said it proved their case.

The naturalists explain it like this. Grunion eggs hatch only in dry sand. To lay them the parents must get themselves stranded at the top of the spring tide, afterwards flapping back to the sea.

A couple of weeks later, as the eggs are hatching, the next spring tide comes and sweeps the young grunions into the sea.

But that is only half the story. Why do the grunion soothsayers ordain that the eggs shall be laid only at the tides of the full moon? What is the matter with the new moon tides?

The answer is that the new moon tides are the highest and if the eggs were laid then the full moon tides wouldn't reach them, and the grunion young would perish in the dry sand.

When fish bite better

And here is another example of practical astrology. A lot of people say that fish bite better when the moon is directly overhead or on the opposite side of the earth, and an enterprising American uses this information to get out charts telling you what time of the day to fish. He would have done well in Babylon, that fellow. He doesn't do badly in America.

Well, that is the background of astrology and you can make what you like of it. But the odd thing is that even those who call it bunk can seldom resist a peep. Which reminds me. I wonder what the stars are saying today. It happens to be my birthday.

Placids

Americans use this information to get out charts telling you what time of the day to fish. He would have done well in Babylon, that fellow. He doesn't do badly in America.

What is the missing equation? The cynic might say that people go to the theatre to enjoy themselves. I can assure him that people go to political meetings for exactly the same reason.

Perhaps the difference is that a speech is personal, the outpourings of one's mind, whereas the actor is merely the mouthpiece and the interpreter of the author. Yet there are many points where the politician and the actor meet. Both have to satisfy the ear and the eye, and both have to master the technique before they can be successful.

SIDE GLANCES

By Galbraith



"I don't see why I should struggle for the next seven years to get a degree—you've got one, but you can't even work this algebra!"

This drug is too good to hold up

by CHAPMAN PINCHER

been published. They were carried out by the U.S. Army and Navy, and more than 900 patients in 22 hospitals were involved.

I must stress that no cures are claimed. Recovered patients must stay healthy for four more years before the possibility of relapse can be discounted.

But the cautiously worded report of the trials credits streptomycin with the dramatic relief of several types of obstinate tubercular disease.

On the drug's value against the chronic type of lung consumption it is equally definite.

X-ray pictures

The report adds: "The effect was rarely complete enough to describe as a cure; it does, however, in conjunction with bed-rest, clear a considerable proportion of exudative disease."

X-ray photographs were made of each case before and after treatment. The complete records were assessed by a jury of tuberculosis specialists who had taken no part in the tests. Most spectacular was the verdict passed on 13 cases of tuberculous inflammation of the throat. The ulcerations healed with amazing rapidity, some showing improvement within two weeks and all being healed within 90 days," states the report.

But more important were the effects of the drug on the commoner and more deadly "miliary" tuberculosis—a rapid invasion of the whole system by tubercle bacilli.

Trials

Of 27 acute cases treated with streptomycin only seven failed to respond. The rest showed rapid improvement, and eventually—according to X-ray evidence—complete clearing of all lung spots.

The jury decided that these results demand the immediate adoption of streptomycin as the standard for the disease.

"We believe that the mortality rate of acute miliary tuberculosis will be definitely lowered," says the report.

The Medical Research Council is staging its own big trials.

Long before they are finished enough streptomycin to treat 800 patients a month will be available from the Ulverston factory.

I maintain that the Ministry of Health should sanction its immediate use in hospitals on the evidence of the U.S. trials.

* Exudative disease—the form of tuberculosis which produces fluid in the lungs.

JESTS AND JEERS

The "New Look" covers a multitude of sins.

Economy is a way of spending money without getting any fun out of it.

The reason why it takes so long to accomplish anything in Hongkong is because too many people are content just to be bystanders.

When two women suddenly become friendly, the chances are some third woman has lost two friends.

"Shirts will be shorter this summer," says an advertisement in an Indian paper. Thereby hangs no tail.

When a man is generous to a fault, usually it's his own fault he's generous to.

In these days, parents not only worry how their children will turn out, but also when they will turn in.

The spinster social worker decided to call on the poor family who had a baby every year.

"You should learn one of the methods of birth control," she told the mother.

"That's all right for you," replied the woman. "But I'm married."

KALA AZAR IN SHANGHAI

Kala Azar, a severe and usually fatal Oriental disease, prevalent in China, has stricken some 2,000,000 Chinese, the Shanghai Public Health Bureau said, but only 13 persons in Shanghai have been infected.

The Bureau said these 13 were infected with the disease before they removed there from North Kiangsu as refugees from the Communists.

The Bureau denied rumours that bubonic plague had broken out in Shanghai. Only smallpox has reached epidemic proportions. More than 130 persons have died from it.

Associated Press.

This school will teach you a hundred languages

By Nikolaus Wemdt

DEEP in the African bush, somewhere, at the foot of a huge tree, a half-naked negro of the Kikuyu tribe sits singing his monotonous chant. How many people have heard of a Kikuyu tribe?

Somewhere in India two Dravidians, descended from the dark-skinned aborigines of India, are quarrelling, and a Burman passing by has no idea what they are quarrelling about.

On an island somewhere in the Pacific, a wild Polynesian is carrying out the esoteric religious rites of his tribe.

NONE of them would have any inkling that their speech, thoughts and emotions, their customs, habits and laws are known and observed in detail at any corner of the globe. Russell Square, Bloomsbury, London, in a large modern building devoted to this sole purpose, fit the secrets and rules of their languages, their religious and legal concepts, their history and their national peculiarities, are studied and taught accurately and scientifically.

This study includes almost 100 Oriental and African languages and spheres of culture, ranging from sacred Sanskrit and classical Arabic, to the dialects of the most primitive negro tribes in the remotest corners of Africa.

It is a unique centre, for the study of languages and national cultures; linguistic centre for the countless races, peoples and tribes living in the British Empire, protected and culturally fostered by it.

This centre, in which all the languages of the East and of the African continent are understood, spoken, studied and taught, is the

ledge of the Near East, the Far East and the entire African continent, partly for practical purposes and partly out of a devotion to pure science.

Administrative officials, business men, soldiers, pastors and missionaries have acquainted themselves at the School with linguistic and cultural conditions in their present or future spheres of activity, and so fitted themselves to be intelligent links between Britain and Colonies.

The address made to King George V by the Chairman of the Governing body at the formal opening of the School made it clear from the outset, that the School of Oriental and African Studies was not intended to serve practical purposes alone. It stated that the School had been set up "to furnish the Capital of the Empire a meeting-ground and focus for scholars from the East of various nationalities, where, on their visits to this country, they may be assured of a sympathetic welcome and find at hand, if they desire them, opportunities for studies among those engaged in kindred pursuits."

TWENTY-three African languages, nine Semitic, 28 Indo-European, four Dravidian, 13 Sino-Tibetan, six Turko-Mongolian, three Australian dialects and innumerable dialects are taught there, and with them the literature, religious concepts, philosophies and ethics of the various cultures. The fact that Hindu, Buddhist and Jain philosophies are included among examination subjects, gives some idea of the scope of the instruction given there; this impression is made even more vivid by a glance through the titles of students' theses, which run into hundreds.

A Persian student followed up the traces of Persian influence on 15th and 16th century English literature. An Indian obtained his Doctor of Philosophy's degree for work on "The Nature of Consciousness in Hindu Philosophy." These are only two of the countless very advanced works which have issued from the School.

Men and women belonging to all nations of the world have worked there to gain a thorough know-

ledge of the Near East, the Far East and the entire African continent, partly for practical purposes and partly out of a devotion to pure science.

Administrative officials, business men, soldiers, pastors and missionaries have acquainted themselves at the School with linguistic and cultural conditions in their present or future spheres of activity, and so fitted themselves to be intelligent links between Britain and Colonies.

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Another point to remember is that words, even the shortest of them, consist of syllables. I heard one M.P. once say: "And that Mr Speaker is the SNOPSIS of the SLUTION!" And he had been to an expensive school in his youth. There is an ex-Minister at Westminster who reduces every vowel to a composite "ow." After five minutes the ear gives up trying to break it into phonetics.

The tone

STRESS the matter of voice production because, strangely enough, the average public man thinks that there is no difference between talking and speaking, whereas they are as far apart as humming and sing-

ing. The trained speaker's quietest words can be heard to an end.

Humour and sincerity are the two greatest assets in public speaking, and by humour I do not mean the laboured story: "The presence of our chairman here tonight reminds me of the story of the Irishman who...." That fools nobody, and bores everyone.

Let us then leave this aspect with the following solemn thought. Tone is produced in the larynx by pressure of breathing and should travel upward through the empty spaces of the head (and even good politicians have those empty spaces), then to the bridge of the nose on to the hard palate and the teeth and then out of the mouth, the lips superimposing words on it as it flows.

So much for the ear. Now what about the eye? Few public speakers are beautiful, which is just as well, for their beauty would take our minds off their arguments. That is one reason why women, as a whole, are ineffective speakers. Their femininity is always intruding.

Nevertheless the man on the platform must satisfy the eye or it will become bored and look about for other distractions. For example, if a candidate places his hands on his hips and never moves them, the audience will begin to wonder what is the matter with him.

If he puts one hand in his pocket and never takes it out, the audience gets irritated.

and finally

SIX DON'TS TO REMEMBER

DON'T start your speech without having a clear idea of how you are going to begin and how you will end.
DON'T use the expression "finally" more than six times or the phrase "you have engendered will turn to despair."
DON'T speak on a subject unless you know a lot more or a lot less about it than your audience. In the latter case your amateur opinion will prove interesting if it is fundamental, but equally so if it is trivial.
DON'T telescope three words into one.
DON'T tell your audience that you will deal with the subject from five aspects.
DON'T mumble.

SIX DON'TS TO REMEMBER

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DON'T

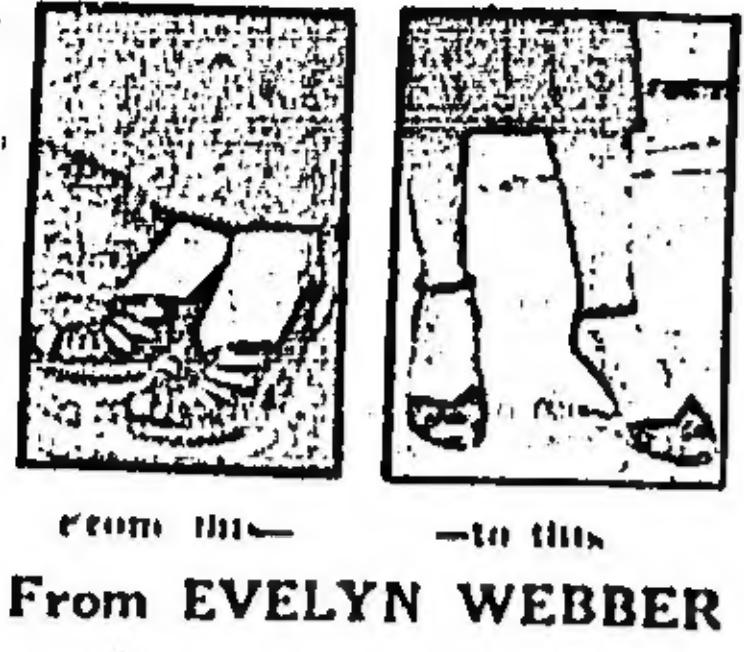
EVERY SATURDAY

WOMANSENSE

FULL-PAGE FEATURE

U.S. FASHION BATTLE ENDS IN VICTORY FOR SHORTER SKIRT
NEW LOOK IS OLD ALREADY

In New York hemlines now 13 inches from the ground



From EVELYN WEBBER

NEW YORK.
The "Battle of the Two Looks" has ended in America with victory for the shorter skirt.

Despite the news from London that some designers have introduced

skirts 18 in. from the floor, newest hemlines here have jumped back to an officially stabilized 13 in.—not far from the Old Look.

Heavy buying by department stores when the New Look was first shown is now showing unhappy results in the increasing number of New Look dresses being placed on sale. Even at greatly reduced prices (and no coupons) nobody is buying them.

"It always happens," said the buyer of one Fifth Avenue shop today. "As soon as the mass manufacturers begin copying a new style, everybody rushes to buy it."

NO LONGER FASHION

"Soon it isn't high fashion any more; just something people get tired of seeing."

"In the case of the New Look the end came quicker than we expected. I suppose it was because it was so revolutionary."

FASHION TREKKERS TROOP OFF TO PARIS



Scaffolding FOR THE NEW LOOK

By ANNE EDWARDS:

THE PARIS SPRING SHOWS opened recently.

The international glamour squad of buyers and professional clothes observers has moved in from London.

However much Paris tries to be different, it seems, will be common to both capitals; you might call it "the scaffolding for the New Look." Both in Paris and London they will soon be selling "tetraette sets" which mannequins are wearing at the shows. Robb has drawn them for you. On top of No. 1 goes:

No. 2. Hips: Thickening made of cottonwood is worn over each hip. Each piece is made separately and sewn to a band which fits round the waist.

No. 3. Waist: Narrow, corset 4½ ins. deep. Made of elastic fabric, it's boned and worn over an ordinary girdle.

No. 4. Flared petticoat: In taffeta-plaid or cotton. Has rills pleated or gathered round the hem. Some have a frill sewn inside at the waist to emphasise the hip-line.

Ideas for a

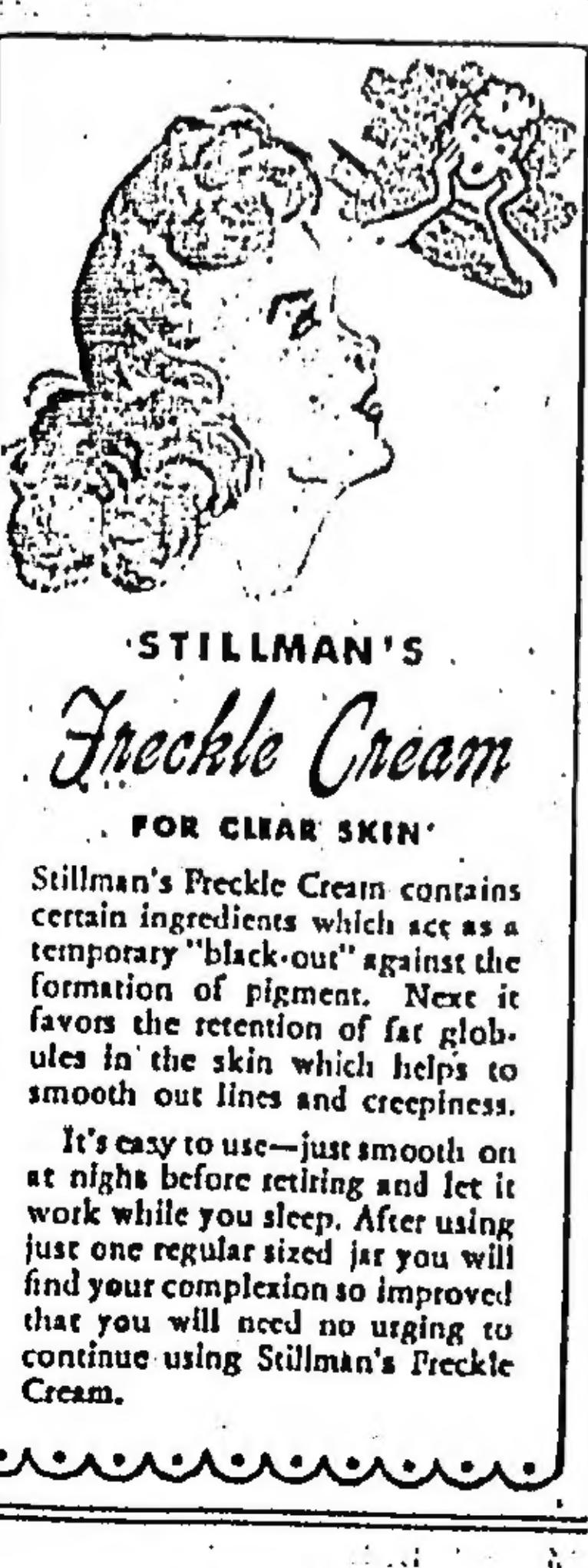
Wedding Buffet

By GEORGIE RODGERS

Principal, Good Housekeeping School of Cookery.

THE entertaining of friends after the ceremony can be a big headache.

Here are some ideas for an attractive buffet that will serve equally well for a birthday or other party. All the items can be prepared well in advance, but if you have any help in the kitchen some of the savouries could be served hot. Sand-



STILLMAN'S

Freckle Cream

FOR CLEAR SKIN'
Stillman's Freckle Cream contains certain ingredients which act as a temporary "black-out" against the formation of pigment. Next it favors the retention of fat globules in the skin which helps to smooth our lines and creases.

It's easy to use—just smooth on at night before retiring and let it work while you sleep. After using just one regular sized jar you will find your complexion so improved that you will need no urging to continue using Stillman's Freckle Cream.

wiches will keep fresh provided you wrap them in greaseproof paper, then a damp teacloth and keep them in a cool place.

Filings for sandwiches, bridge rolls and savoury toasts.—You can buy a number of sandwich spreads, meat and fish pastes ready for use, or make up any of the following:

Shredded lettuce, grated carrot and mayonnaise;

Grated cheese and chutney;

Diced beetroot and celery and mayonnaise;

Mushrooms finely chopped and fried;

Prawns and shrimps mixed with a little white sauce;

Sliced salami or liver sausage;

Cream cheese and chopped walnuts or capers;

Scrambled egg and anchovy essence.

If there are to be any children at the party they usually prefer sweet fillings such as jam, jelly, chocolate spreads or chopped dates.

ANCHOVY TWIRLS

Scraps of pastry, 1 tin anchovy fillets.

ROLL out the pastry thinly into a strip about 2 inches wide, and cut into fingers about ¼ inch wide. Drain the anchovies well, then lay a fillet along each strip of pastry and twist the two together, pinning well together at the ends. Place on a greased baking sheet and brush over with beaten egg or milk. Bake for 10 minutes in a hot oven. Reg. 6 or 400 deg. F. Remove carefully, as the twirls are very fragile when hot, and serve garnished with cream.

GAME FLAN

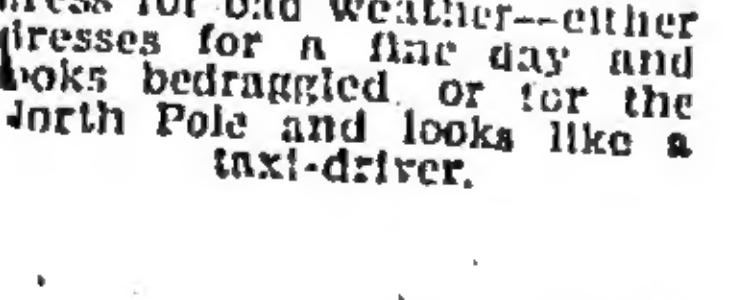
4 oz. pastry, ½ pint apricot jelly, remains of chicken or white meat of rabbit, 2 cooked mushrooms.

LINE a flan ring or sandwich tin with pastry and bake in a moderate oven for 20 minutes. Fill with the minced remains of any poultry and garnish with slices of cooked mushroom. Glaze with apricot jelly and stand in a cool larder until required. Serve the flan cut through into portions.

SHE comes up from the country to buy a hat to go with her new sports suit, and falls for a piece of nonsense.



SHE never knows how to dress for bad weather—either dresses for a fine day and looks bedraggled or for the North Pole and looks like a taxi-driver.



SHE congratulates herself on saving two shillings in the sales, though she's ruined her clothes in the scramble.



In the sales, though she's ruined her clothes in the scramble.



SHE congratulates herself on saving two shillings in the sales, though she's ruined her clothes in the scramble.



In the sales, though she's ruined her clothes in the scramble.

London drops hemlines Lower . . . fashions for Spring unveiled



drawn by ROBB

LONDON has started the annual spring fashion jamboree with a week of dress shows. Robb and I bring you today first reports of the Look that London is putting over for the spring.

Biggest news from the London shows is the longer-than-ever hem-

line. Most of the dresses were 11 inches from the ground—worn with fine black or smoke stockings.

Main outline of all the clothes is a modified New Look—unpadded shoulders, small waists, large hips.

The best retain the original Paris elegance.

HIGHLIGHTS: Pleated skirts using 12 yards of material, . . . wide sleeves with a smaller sleeve inside, . . . huge drop-pearl earrings, . . . side panels hanging from waist to hem, . . . jet buttons on wool suits matched with jet shoe buckles, . . . muslin petticoats threaded with black velvet, . . . head chokers tied with big moire bows.

1 SHORT nipped-waist jacket . . . full skirt padded round the hips, . . . stiff taffeta petticoat, . . . collar and cuffs of frilled muslin.

2 ANKLE-LENGTH coat, . . . tight waist, and very full skirt, . . . layered pockets bulge out the hip-line, . . . gabardine boots.

3 LONG 1910 jacket, . . . diagonal fastenings and sloped shoulders . . . tight straight skirt nearly to ankles, . . . pearl-button suede boots.

ANNE EDWARDS

UN AGENCY SYMBOLISES RISING STATUS OF WOMEN

By HOMER METZ
Correspondent of the Christian Science Monitor

Lake Success. One of the lesser-publicised agencies of the United Nations has been working here quietly but efficiently.

It is the Commission on the Status of Women, a subsidiary of the Economic and Social Council, and it has the high aim of showing the world that the growing influence of women in modern life is an influence for peace and individual and international virtue.

The current session of the Status of Women Commission is its second, and its crowded agenda includes such items as the legal status and treatment of women, political rights of women, educational opportunities, economic rights, human rights and the prevention of discrimination on grounds of sex, problems relating to conflicts of law in fields of nationality, domicile, marriage, and divorce.

It also has included increased participation of qualified women in government both at the national level and in international organisations and conferences, influence of world public opinion on equality between men and women, and appointment of regional committees for the investigation of social and legal disabilities of women.

LAUGHS AND DISDAIN

When the Commission on the Status of Women was set up in February, 1946, it was greeted in many quarters either with laughter or cold disdain.

There is still an inclination among many delegates and observers to regard it with something less than seriousness, but the earnest efforts of its members have silenced the laughter and curbed the disdain.

Whatever the Commission may lack in support, it at least has earned the respect of other branches of the UN and of the world organisation as a whole.

Because of the nature of its aims and widely differing customs throughout the world, the Commission may not be able to achieve much in the way of concrete results for some time to come, but it is helping to focus attention on the increased importance of women in the political and economic world cannot be gainsaid.

It is, moreover, clearing away much of the tangled underbrush that has handicapped women everywhere in their efforts to better themselves.

In spite of discouragement and lack of support, the Commission on the Status of Women has not faltered in its adherence to these principles.

It has, for example, been pointed out that the Economic and Social Council approved nearly all the resolutions passed by the Commission on the Status of Women in 1947.

15 NATIONS REPRESENTED

Fifteen nations are represented on the Commission—Australia, Byelorussia, China, Costa Rica, Denmark, India, Mexico, Syria, Turkey, Russia, Britain, United States, France, Guatemala, and Venezuela.

At its first session in 1946, the Commission on the Status of Women adopted the following set of principles:

"1. Freedom and equality are essential to human development and whereas woman is as much a human being as man and, therefore, entitled to share with him."

"2. Well-being and progress of society depend on the extent to which both men and women are able to develop their full personality and are cognizant of their responsibilities to themselves and to each other."

"3. Woman has thus a definite role to play in the building of a free, healthy, prosperous, and moral society and that she can fulfil this obligation only as a free and responsible member."

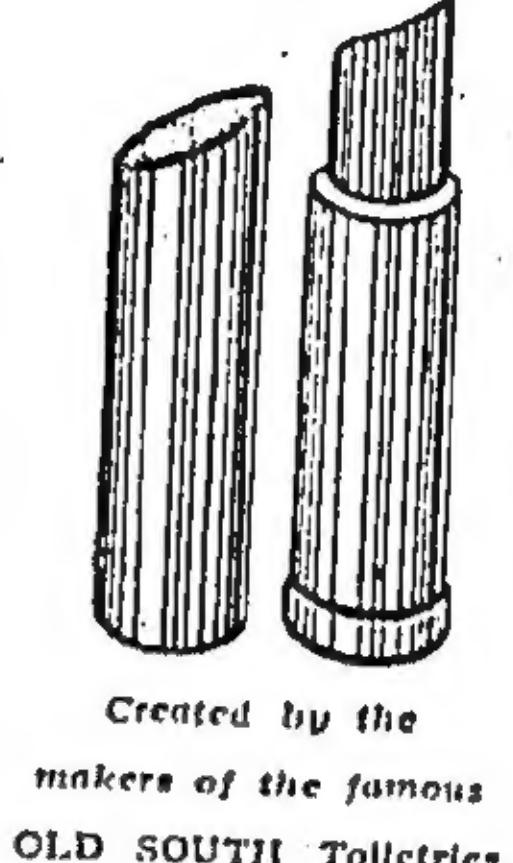
"4. Women shall take an active part in the fight for the full elimination of the fascist ideology and for international co-operation directed to the establishment of a democratic peace among the peoples of the world and for the prevention of a new aggression as a whole."

"5. In order to achieve this goal, the purpose of the Commission is to raise the status of women, irrespective of their nationality, race, language, or religion, to equality with men in all fields of human endeavour, and to eliminate all discrimination against women in provisions of statutory law and under maxims or rules, or interpretations of customary law."

In spite of discouragement and lack of support, the Commission on the Status of Women has not faltered in its adherence to these principles.

WORDS FAIL US IN TRYING
TO DESCRIBE THE WORLD'S
PERFECT LIPSTICK

Solitair

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POWER WITHOUT THE SWORD.

of the first news passes, an appraisal must now be made of one of the world's half-dozen most important men . . .

THIS last time I saw him, in that momentary Indian pause between day and darkness, was there on Birla's lawn where he died. "I am a spent bullet," he said, among the silent, white-clad congregation that surrounded Gandhi all his days, most of his nights.

A twin-engined transport came in low overhead, back from the Kashmir front. "I asked for peace," he said; the low, rather petulant voice of a very old man. He was still incomparably the most important person in Asia.

BY
JAMES
CAMERON

India, but to unite her. His death may do what his life could not—that, or signal a disaster past accounting.

Who could compress the life and character of Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi into a handful of words? He did his best with self-analysis, self-revelation; no living mind ever communed so publicly and frankly with his soul for strictly matter-of-fact ends.

The ends were politics. Everything in life was politics, from his Cabinets at sunrise to his evening prayers, from the milk of his goats to the 5s. tin watch he stung at his waist. Politics equalled Faith plus Expediency,

He was 78; very old for an Indian. He was tough; the conventional picture of a bowed and skinny ascetic did no justice to that smooth and nimble brown frame.

Self-indulgence

THAT scrupulous personal honesty of an earlier day once forced him to admit that in certain circumstances even fasting could become a self-indulgence. By the same token it was clear he could enjoy jail, it punctuated a monstrously busy life with islands of privacy. Like Nehru, he wrote oceans of literature in prison.

It was obvious he could always get out of jail when he wished. The threat of a fast would be enough; the British could not risk Gandhi dying of starvation on their hands. But he never exploited that threat for himself; jail was far too valuable for him.

Examine Gandhi and you are beset and confused with paradox. He was the politician and philosopher, agitator and peacemaker, internationalist and patriot, religious leader and shrewdest of party men.

He was respected almost to idolatry by the practitioners—the Nehru, Ghafoor Khan, Vallabhbhai Patel, Rajagopalachari. He treated them like sons, and they called him Bapu, which is Gujarati for Father.

None to give

WITH age came a certain erotechiness to sour that unbreaking patience—When, he demanded, will Indians learn love? I asked him a month or two ago for news of one of his talks with Mountbatten. He answered crossly: "Nowadays I can give you nothing. Except"—with a sudden grin—"my shawl, if you like." Like a fool, I did not take it.

Gandhi was born in 1869 in the tiny State of Porbandar, to a family of the Vaisya caste, the traders. When he was 13 he married a neighbour girl, Kasturba. She died three years ago, old, kindly, still illiterate.

Although Hindu orthodoxy forbids the crossing of oceans, young Gandhi went to England in 1888, was called to the Bar and—as he wryly admitted years later—bought a top-hat and tried to learn the one-step.

South Africa started him. For 20 years after 1893 he stayed there, giving up a busy legal practice to champion the Indians there, founding farm colonies, propagating the gospel of the simple virtues. And in 1914 he came home to begin the



As the shock

bigest, longest, most enduring political campaign in Asia's history:

After supporting Britain through the 1914 war he turned against her. In 1920 he opened the first All-India Civil Disobedience. A famous word was born—Satyagraha.

The weapon

IT was perhaps Gandhi's biggest contribution to language—it means, vaguely, "the force of righteousness"; eventually it came to mean "non-co-operation," "passive resistance."

Here was Indian nationalism's most potent weapon. Troops who could handle a shrillling armed mob were helpless against dark multitudes who stood wordlessly against the charge, allowed their heads to be beaten in, accepted death or injury without a cry, and were silently replaced by more.

It is fair to say that only Gandhi could have imposed Satyagraha on a fiercely resentful bitter people. It worked.

Then came 1930 and a new rebellion, symbolised by the famous Salt March to Dandi. Salt was a Government monopoly, its tax was hard on the poor.

Gandhi—choosing, as always, the simple symbol for the complex issue—led his march to the source of salt, the ocean. Steadily, on foot, he crossed the enormous country, volunteers fell in; very soon India was alight from Karachi to the Bay of Bengal.

Gandhi reached the sea, lifted a handful of brine to his lips, India cheered—but the tax remained.

He went to London for the Round Table Conference of 1932. London smiled a little at the bizarre figure in the dhoti, who would break up any committee by squatting down to prayer halfway through, if it were time for prayer—or for a diversion.

He returned and fasted for 21 days that the Untouchables might be brought into the Hindu electoral body. For always parallel to his abiding ambition of Swaraj—self-rule—rode his obsession with the melancholy Untouchables, whom the British called the Scheduled Castes and Gandhi called Harijans, Children of God.

For 50 years he fought for them. His own paper was called the Harijan. The last copy I saw carried his plaintive editorial: "Independence has brought them nothing. The Untouchables are still untouched, shame to India."

Unpredictable

SO the long life went on, illuminated always by the wild flash of the unpredictable. There is no way of saying yes or no about Gandhi. (He was invariably called Gandhi; the ji is the untranslatable Indian suffix implying simultaneously respect, devotion, admiration and homely friendliness).

He was old and young, solemn and humorous, profound and given to puerile practical jokes. He insisted that his own religion blended everything admirable of every faith, yet he was a Hindu of Hindus.

He disliked capitalism, yet lived half his time in the home of Birla, India's biggest industrial boss, and there he died. He disapproved of the British and enjoyed the company of the British. In the midst of preparing a new campaign against the British, he is said to have wept when he heard of the bombing of London.

The mystic

ONE thing he would never tolerate nor countenance: that any man should lift his hand against any other man for any reason. Peace was supreme and irrevocable. Non-violence was the one thing he became violent about.

He was a mystic and a mystery, a trouble-maker and a pacifist, a thorn in the side of Viceroys who nevertheless went to great lengths to get him to dinner. He took on the greatest. Before history has ever known and beat it. He was human and irreducible and a taskmaster, and perhaps as near a saint as any man has ever been.

Today he is a handful of ashes, and that of all his aspects, is the hardest one to believe.

In And Out of Parliament

By Ernest Thurtle, M.P.

MR BEVIN'S foreign affairs speech did not stir the Commons to enthusiasm, yet it would be unfair to blame him for that.

The story he had to tell was essentially one of diplomatic defeat. Defeat due in the main to Russian obstruction, certainly, but nevertheless defeat, and that never arouses enthusiasm.

Moreover, the speech was long, it was read, and it was not noticeably illumined by the flashing phrase.

YET the facts were all there, stated plainly and firmly. They indicated action, which is what the country wants.

A determination to have done with the futile past and to take prompt action to build on the ruin of disappointed hopes meets the prevailing mood.

A GENIAL-LOOKING elder statesman, grave and sparkling by turns, Mr. Churchill returned from North Africa for this debate at the top of his form.

To the Government's firmer attitude towards Russia he offered the fullest support, and he rejoiced at the declared intentions to seek a united Western Europe.

Now and again he had members robbing with amusement at some of his quips ("Leave it to history: I am writing it"), but for the most part matter and manner were grave, and likewise was the mood of his audience.

Especially was this so when he discussed the disquieting future, with all its grim possibilities looming ahead.

Some at least who listened could not help remembering how they had heard that same voice sounding notes of warning before civilisation's last blood-bath.

* * *

ECONOMIC necessity (let us confess) has made us all believers in Colonial development now.

This was made manifest again when the Commons discussed and passed the Overseas Resources Development Bill.

There were differences on the legislative details, but none on the broad purpose of the measure.

So it was that we had the Bill given an unopposed third reading, not only with the blessings of the Colonial Secretary and the Minister of Food, but also with warm commendation from ex-Colonial Secretary Oliver Stanley, speaking from the Opposition front bench.

SCOPE for the new enterprise is truly enormous.

Results are not likely to be rapid, for the difficulties are great, but in due time immense advantages should accrue from the project to the Colonial peoples, to Britain, and to the world as a whole.

Lord Tregearne (sometime Garro-Jones, M.P.) is to head the Development Corporation. Energetic and determined, and backed by a good team, his ambition will be to set a hot pace of progress.

It cannot be too hot for the British people.

* * *

CAPTURED documents on Nazi-Soviet relations, just published by the American State Department, are vastly revealing.

Russia, we learn, agreed with Hitler, in the days of seeming Nazi triumph that Britain and the U.S.A. should be shut out of Europe, Asia and Africa.

Details are given of the immense material aid received by the Nazis from Russia during the period our country was fighting for its life.

But perhaps the document that gives rise to the most bitter feelings is the telegram sent by the German Ambassador in Moscow, reporting to Berlin how Mr. Molotov had expressed his warm congratulations to the Nazi Government on "the splendid success of the German armed forces."

This after France had been crushed and our army driven from Dunkirk!



"All members of H.M. Forces who wish to continue marching on their stumicks must in future dine out at the Ritz."

Outsiders?

A WEAKNESS of our Foreign Service is the tendency of diplomats to confine their contacts to the official and satellite circles of the countries to which they are accredited.

Diplomats fear that if they meet opposition leaders they may be suspected of intrigue.

But if it were part of our envoy's normal routine to see opposition leaders as well as Cabinet Ministers and under-secretaries, such meetings would cease to arouse suspicion.

In Teheran I spent two hours with Rustam, the chief of the Left-wing trade unions, and six of his associates. Neither Rustam nor any of the other men present had ever met and talked things over with the Labour attaché of the British Embassy. All said they would be delighted to meet him.

In Bagdad I spent an evening with opposition leaders. None of these men had met anyone from the British Embassy for the past six months.

Now one of them, Mohammed Kubba, leader of the Independence Party, has become Minister of Supply in the new Cabinet, and no doubt our representatives will be entertaining him.

Had they met him before, the opposition revolt against the new Anglo-Iraqi treaty would have caused less surprise in Whitehall.

Sore points

ONE of the Iraqis' bitterest complaints was that the Anglo-Iraqi treaty gives Britain first refusal of

My European parish has been fairly well-behaved. No one has threatened anyone else with war.

No one answered any "challenges." Moscow's Literary Gazette front-paged a fake picture of President Truman and fellow-revellers pouring whisky down a turkey's throat to make it drunk. But Ambassador Bedell-Smith this time did not bother to send his usual note of protest.

Even a diplomatic bombshell was a disclaimer—Pravda's reproof to Bulgaria's Georgi Dimitrov for talking out of school about plans for a Balkan federation.

Georgi certainly got a rocket—just when he was feeling really on top of the world after his long and intimate holliday with the boss at Sochi, Stalin's Crimean winter palace.

A few hours after Dimitrov's newspaper, Fatherland Front, had splashed his federation speech a furious Moscow was on the line.

Sofia, thoroughly shaken, cabled its foreign representatives to disregard all commentaries on the Bulgaro-Rumanian treaty, and confine themselves strictly to what was in the text. Dimitrov himself said he'd never said it.

His shadow

MORE important even than the rocket was the revolution in the Bulgarian Politburo—the real rulers of the country. By Moscow's orders its size was cut down by half, from 14 to seven.

And of the seven members of the new Politburo, behold five are Soviet citizens.

Dimitrov is its nominal head as secretary-general. But he has been given an "adviser"—General George Damyanov, late of the Soviet Army, and one of the Soviet commanders during the siege of Leningrad.

Damyanov is a Soviet citizen as well as a Bulgarian citizen. He has the real power. It will be he in future who passes Moscow's wishes and instructions to Dimitrov. And it is Damyanov who commands the army, the militia, the secret police, and the secret prisons. It is he who orders the arrests.



BOGEY is the eagle on the new Austrian coins pictured here.

Has he gone Communist? He has dropped the Nazi swastika he held on the post-Anschluss coins. Instead he now clutches a sickle with his right claw and a hammer in his left. He has only to click his heels to make the Soviet Emblem.

But the bird is no Bolshevik at all. Long before Nazis or Russians occupied Austria the republican eagle clutched his hammer and his sickle.

He is just a reactionary old bird barking back to the past.

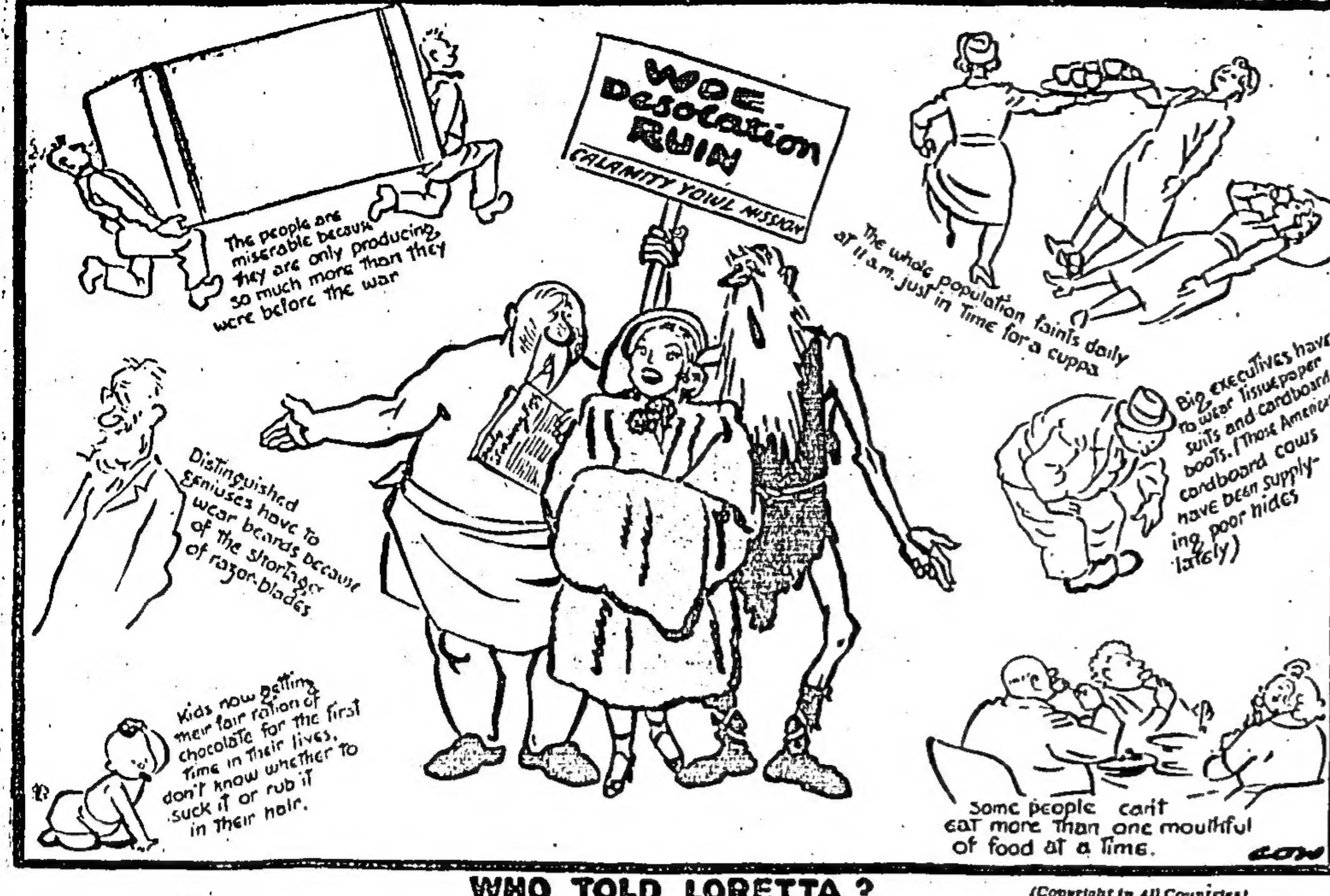
Mixed grill

BRITISH firms whose factories and coal mines have been nationalised in Czechoslovakia are still waiting for the Czechs to pay compensation. But the Czechs put up one pretext after another to avoid payment.

Now these firms have received a nine-page document asking them to declare their assets for the Czech capital levy. Among assets subject to the levy—5 percent of the value—are "claims for compensation for nationalised property...."

On the back page of the document is an invitation, "Czechoslovakia," it says, "is inviting you. Will you eat and drink well? Try our ham, our Pilsch beer, our cheese, fruit and the Czech cuisine! Are you interested in industry? Visit our factories and coal mines, our industrial enterprises, see our products of glass, porcelain, leather and wood, our machines, textiles and stationery."

Hmph.



WHO TOLD LORETTA?

(Copyright in All Countries)

Listowel's Visit To Hongkong

BY "CANDIDUS"

ACCORDING to Lord Listowel, Minister of State for Colonial Affairs, who will shortly visit Hongkong, the problem here is "acute and difficult in many respects."

Once again, a statement by a British Government Minister reveals a total lack of understanding or knowledge as to what exactly is Hongkong. It is good, however, to know that such an important personage intends to seek first-hand information, and it is to be hoped that the information gained will serve some useful purpose in enlightening the British Government as to the importance of, and necessity for, Hongkong.

It can be said that in spite of many handicaps, mostly governmental, Hongkong progressed amazingly in its first century, and has set an example to the world in general and China in particular. Its primary role is that of fostering trade between China and the rest of the world, and that the Colony has successfully filled that role none can deny.

Furthermore, it demonstrates the best that Western culture has to offer, and above all sets an example in sound government and administration of speech is as jealously upheld here as in any other enlightened part of the world, and citizens of all races and creeds are free to come and go and enjoy the protection of British laws which make no distinctions.

IT is only natural that comparisons should be made between this Colony and China, but it is regrettable that the chaotic state of our great neighbour should present such an obstacle in fostering mutual friendship and prosperity. The American Ambassador spared no words in condemning the extreme reactionaries and extreme radicals who, regardless of the suffering of the people, add fuel and yet more fuel to the commotion and disorder, which not only disunite the masses but add to their misery.

By this means he would have got almost the whole of the charges in summary form stated in open court. This would have meant publication in the newspapers, represented at the hearing by a battalion of eager reporters.

To this Marshall Hall objected, saying that the prisoner had pleaded not guilty, and he was not going to assist Bigland by giving him the opportunity of reading the 37 counts of his plea of justification.

Therefore he proposed to offer no evidence on the general count.

Mr. Justice Coleridge, remarking that the case had come to a "somewhat abrupt conclusion," directed the jury to find a verdict of Not Guilty, Bottomley having to pay the entire costs.

Very soon afterwards Bottomley was arrested on charges of fraud and after a long hearing at the police court he again appeared at the Old Bailey in May 1922.

He conducted his own defence as ably as anybody else could have done, but from the very beginning there was not the slightest hope.

But he remained the old rhetorician Bottomley, and tried his spell-binding qualities upon the jury.

Emotionally, trembling with intense feeling, he denied the allegations of fraud against him.

"Even if the terrible verdict of guilty comes from your lips, I still believe something will happen to undo it."

And then pointing towards the emblem of justice behind the judge's seat—the bevelled sword—he declared: "If I am convicted that sword will fall from its scabbard."

He then sank back into his seat exhausted.

But the jury were absent only 28 minutes. They found Bottomley guilty on 23 out of the 24 counts of the indictment.

Bottomley half crouched over the ledge of the dock listening to the words of Mr. Justice Chilver Salter as he referred to "this series of heartless frauds," and then went on to say: "These poor people trusted you, and you robbed them of £150,000 in ten months. You will go to penal servitude for seven years."

(World Copyright.)

NEXT SATURDAY:
Gun Drama In
Court



DRAMAS OF THE LAW COURTS

The end of the amazing Horatio Bottomley

*Robbed the poor
who trusted him*

by A. E. BOWKER

who was confidential clerk to SIR EDWARD MARSHALL HALL, K.C., the famous defence counsel.

HORATIO BOTTOMLEY, supreme egotist, was as pompous as he was portly. He had the saving grace of a keen sense of humour.

Possessed of great personal charm, and a convincing tongue, he had above all a tremendous ego.

Marshall Hall had a great respect for his abilities as a lawyer, and at one of his earliest meetings, when Bottomley was consulting him about his defence in a lottery charge in connection with a paper called the Sun, Marshall Hall turned to his would-be client and said: "There's only one counsel who will do you justice in this case."

"Let's have his name," said Bottomley promptly. "Who is he?"

"Yourself," was the reply, and there began that intriguing and systematic campaign of legal representation which proved so successful over the ensuing years.

Bottomley, taking full advantage of the greater licence permitted to a person appearing on his own behalf, would conduct his own case, backed by all the skill and finesse of Marshall Hall's subtle mind.

Thus, you would have the amusing spectacle of Marshall Hall rising to speak after Bottomley; solemnly beginning: "Following my unlearned leader . . . and so on."

Spotted weakness

IT was young Mr Douglas Hogg (now Lord Hailsham) who spotted the weakness of issuing writs against both Bottomley and the publishers, and plaintiffs started to issue them against the publishers only; by that means Bottomley could only be called as a witness, and his "in person" advantages were reduced to nil.

It was fun while it lasted, but there was to come a time when Bottomley was to tempt fate too far.

On the morning of the trial, Mr Comyns-Carr, who was defending Bigland, came to see Marshall Hall. He was looking rather serious, and had with him a bundle of documents.

These he showed to Marshall Hall, who was so shocked at what he read that he dashed off straight away to the Old Bailey to see Bottomley.

"We are offering no evidence," he told that worthy. "It's the only course to take. And there's nothing you can do about it."

In Receivers' hands

HE explained that the whole of the books of the Victory Bond Club—concerning which the libel had been published—together with books and documents of other concerns in which Mr. Bottomley was concerned, were in the hands of the Receivers, and he required access to these documents and books, as it would be futile to go on with the case against Bigland, and on that January morning in 1922 Marshall Hall sprang one of his greatest surprises on the court when, with Bottomley sitting at the solicitors' table directly in front of counsel, he rose and asked for an adjournment of the case.

Bottomley agreed in the end that it would be futile to go on with the case against Bigland, and on that January morning in 1922 Marshall Hall sprang one of his greatest surprises on the court when, with Bottomley sitting at the solicitors' table directly in front of counsel, he rose and asked for an adjournment of the case.

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•• SPORTS FEATURES ••

MORE INTERPORT THIS WEEKEND

Manila XI To Play Three Games

(BY "SEE TEE")

Manila hold the stage this week-end. This afternoon Hongkong play Manila in an unofficial Interport match. The match, which will be forty minutes each way, with an extra ten minutes each way if necessary, is to be played on the ground of the Hongkong Football Club, Happy Valley. The kick-off is at 3.30 p.m.

Tomorrow Manila have another very severe test: they are to meet very strong Combined Chinese XI. On Tuesday they are to meet the Rest of the Colony.

While it is difficult to gauge the strength of Manila's team without having seen them in action, their displays against Lien Hwa, the Malayan Chinese team, suggest they will have to fight very hard to hold Hongkong's best.

There are two changes in the Colony's team to meet Manila from that which beat Shanghai so decisively on Chinese New Year's Day. Leek, the Club goalkeeper, is given a chance to show his form; and Wong King-chung, Kitchee's outside left, one of the most stylish players in the Colony, is given well-earned preference for the left wing berth.

This afternoon's Hongkong team is expected to line up as follows:—

Leek (Club); Hau Yung-sang (Sing Tao); B. Gosano (St Joseph's); Lau Chung-sang (Sing Tao), K. Farrow, Captain (Club); Chang Kam-hoi (Sing Tao); Ho Ying-fun (Sing Tao); Chau Man-chi (Kowloon Motor Buses); Tank Yee-kit (Kowloon Motor Buses); W. Klerman (Inniskillings) and Wong King-chung (Kitchee).

It is a strong eleven. The decision to give Wong King-chung his chance at outside left is a wise one, even though it is a little speculative. Wong has style and polish, his foot-work and body control are good; his one weakness has been lack of drive in his excursions down the wing. If Wong can pep up his play a little, Klerman is going to have a good partner to play to.

DISAPPOINTED CROWD

The resuscitation of the Sing Tao team which toured England to play one game against Shanghai very naturally captured the public fancy. Crowds flocked to Caroline Hill on Tuesday hoping to see a game at least of the quality of the Rest of the Colony v. Shanghai. Everything, indeed seemed set fair for a good match. A lot of people, under the impression that the match was to start at 4 p.m., hurried away from offices and business-in-order-to see the game right through. One of the Sing Tao players arrived, in a high state of hurry, only a few minutes before four o'clock. He hadn't been informed that the time of the kick-off was deferred until 4.30.

That wasn't the only thing which went wrong with the arrangements. Because of the late arrival of the visitors, it was well past 4.30 when the game commenced, which meant that a large number of people waited nearly an hour before the kick-off. All the other three matches in which Shanghai took part commenced dead on time; why not this one?

It was a great pity that such a large crowd could not have been given brighter and better football than Shanghai served up in the first half of this game with Sing Tao. When a Shanghai defender indulged in a ridiculous piece of handling to give Sing Tao their third goal (from the penalty spot) it was almost all over bar shouting. Ten minutes later, when a harmless punt from Chu landed comfortably in the back of the visitors' net to make the score 4-0, there was very little interest left in the game. Sing Tao lost Ho, their outside right, after less than a quarter of an hour's play, but they had little difficulty in collecting all the goals they wanted.

It is true that Shanghai bucked up in the second half, but it was too late then. Well before the end a crowd, which had hurried to Caroline Hill hoping to see some keenly contested soccer, was streaming out of the ground, wandering aimlessly between the enclosures and the playing pitch, thereby blocking seated spectators' view, and finally holding up the play. When you add to this the fact that one of the linesmen sauntered to his appointed place of line with his flag in one hand and a cigarette in the other, you will realise that last Tues-



An exciting moment in the Hongkong goalmouth last week when the Shanghai Interport team met and were defeated by a Combined Non-Chinese eleven. It looks very much as though Roboo stoff, the Shanghai centre-forward is handling the ball.—Ming Yuen.

Softball Chater By "Spectator"

WOMEN'S LEADERS CLASH TOMORROW

Wahoos v. Wildcats

The attraction for the week is the meeting of the League-leading Wahoo outfit and the dangerously challenging Wildcats contingent on the CBA ground at 2.30 p.m. tomorrow. A reverse for the latter amounts to spelling "finis" to hopes for the championship.

There is an important tilt in the Men's "B" Division down for today—joint leaders Rexes and Daredevils clashing for superiority and a big say in honour claims. Oozing in enthusiasm, the "kid brothers" of the 10-team League—incidentally predominated by scrapping minors and midgets—have just rounded the second bend. The destination of the champion trophy donated by Ernie Hearther is far from decided and the running is wide open for nearly six teams. The needle Rexes-Daredevils game is to be played on the CBA ground at 4 p.m. Promising youthful players are to be on view and a highly interesting tussle is anticipated.

"Brain-trust" Hal Winglee's Wahoos enter the field determined to avenge their only defeat by the Wildcats, under the management of none other than Prexy Doc Molthen. This fracas should develop into a matching of strength in defence for there is little to choose as far as the swinging of the willow wand is concerned. The green-shirited damsels from Wahooland have slugging exponents in Irene Castello and Iilda Soares amongst the Big Ten in the latest list of batting averages, whereas colourful, popular Eddie Babida is a menace for the Wild Felines, who also boast of big hitters in Peggy Barros and "braibehind-the-scene" Thelma Watson, the latter also being a highly up-to-the-occasion clutch hitter. However, the Wahoos can rely on batters such as Big Chief hurler Terry Noronha, Patsy Ribeiro, "feminine" Gilly Wimpie and "Sweet-as-apple-eider" Aida Castro, and against this force, pushful Wildcat Headwoman Cynthia Motta and Dolly Brown lead the rest of a bang-happy bunch of power-swinging women.

SLIGHT ADVANTAGE

The Wahoos appear stronger in the infield, although it is but slight. In the outfield, they have a trio of teenage rookies and although they are good tries they cannot be compared advantageously with the Wildcat gardeners. Edith Xavier and "Cookie" Olson appear inclined to be nervous, but the Wildcat outfield includes a veteran in Thelma Watson who knows positioning from A to Z. However, spme say she is somewhat "inflapish" in going for the ball.

The Wildcat-Wahoo struggle also should develop into a duel between two of Hongkong's best twirlers among the girls. Wahoo's Terry



SPORTING SAM

By Reg. Wootton



SPORTS DIARY

TODAY

Football

Club—Interport: Hongkong v. Manila, 3.30 p.m.

Cricket

KCC—KCC 1st XI v. Royal Navy, 2 p.m.; King's Park—Navy 2nd XI v. KCC 2nd XI, 2 p.m.; Recrelo—Recrelo 1st XI v. HKCC 1st XI, 2 p.m.; HKCC—HKCC 2nd XI v. Recrelo 2nd XI, 2 p.m.; Sookumpoo—IRC v. Craingewower, 2 p.m.

Rugby

Sookumpoo—International Series: England v. Ireland, 3.15 p.m.; Scotland v. Internationals, 4.15 p.m.

Athletics

Caroline Hill—Quadrangular Sports Meeting, 2 p.m.

Boxing

Chinese YMCA—Challenge bouts and prize distribution, 8 p.m.

SUNDAY

Football

Club—Interport: Manila v. Combined Chinese, 3.30 p.m.

Cricket

HKCC—Dodwells v. Butterfield & Swire, 11 a.m.; KCC v. RAF, 11 a.m.

Lawn Bowls

KBGC—Committee versus Members, 2.45 p.m.

School Football League

Senior: Navy 2—Queen's v. EKPM, 11.30 a.m.

Navy 2—St Paul's v. St Stephen's, 10.30 a.m.

Police—La Salle v. EKAM, 11.30 a.m.

Junior

Caroline Hill—Wantsai AM v. St Paul's, 9.30 a.m.

Caroline Hill—St Joseph's v. St Stephen's, 10.30 a.m.

Caroline Hill—EKAM v. ACAM, 11.30 a.m.

Navy I—EKPM v. Wantsai PM, 10.30 a.m.

Navy I—Wah Yan v. ACPM, 11.30 a.m.

Police—Wah Yan (K) v. Mongkok, 10.30 a.m.

TURPIN CAN WIN BRITISH TITLE

By Frank Butler

One of the best rides on record is Dick Turpin's gallop to York. But the historical journey that was really necessary lines up as a canter alongside the ride that coloured Dick Turpin took Mark Hart and the British Boxing Board of Control at Nottingham.

After refusing a coloured Englishman the right to fight for a championship of his country for nearly 20 years, the board must face up to the probability that in the coming months Turpin will become the British middle-weight champion.

The man in the street is confused about the colour bar. How long has it existed in a country once free of control, and in which we barred no man, irrespective of colour and creed? Who started it—and why?

The British Boxing Board of Control is the most dictatorial of all our sporting bodies. Rules are changed, revised, or instituted to give it more power. But it never started the colour bar. This existed years before the board was founded in 1929.

Before that the old National Sporting Club, under the hammer of the late "Peggy" Bettinson, dictated boxing in England, and decided who should fight for the championships which took place only inside the historic walls in Covent Garden, now converted into a bazaar warehouse.

WOMEN BARRED

The club barred women, disapproved of clapping except between rounds and the great fight privilege never saw a champion—a privilege reserved for members only. Colouredistic masters like Peter Jackson, Joe Walcott, Sam Langford, and Sam McVey were allowed to fight there.

At least until "Peggy" Bettinson decided to present Jack Johnson against our Bombariller Billy Wells. World champion Johnson was something of a dictator himself—and not a little truculent.

Like so many successful pugilists he found wine and song to be the most important pleasures in life, even though he considered music to be overrated!

In short, Lil' Artha gave old "Peggy" the runaround, and if

there is one thing that boasts a dictator's collar it is being given the runaround.

When Bettinson couldn't tie down Johnson (who visited England and France) he got mad, ostracised all coloured fighters from the club, and vowed that no coloured man would get a chance to fight for a British championship.

K.O. VICTORY

For years I struck out at the unfair colour bar. Good fighters and nice guys like Len Johnson, Tommy Martin, and others had to suffer for the alleged sin of Jack Johnson.

But with the help of this and other columns, Bolton's M.P., John Lewis, and the Colonial Office not only issued a challenge to the B.B.C. of C. against its undemocratic rule, but scored a knock-out victory last year.

Dick Turpin is the first fighter to benefit from our combined effort. His manager, George Middleton, is now of the opinion that the title may remain in the Turpin family for years. He is confident Dick can beat Vince Hawkins, and that when he fades young Randolph will be ready to take over the crown. That may well be.



THE FAVOURITE WINS !

TOPPS CHewing Gum

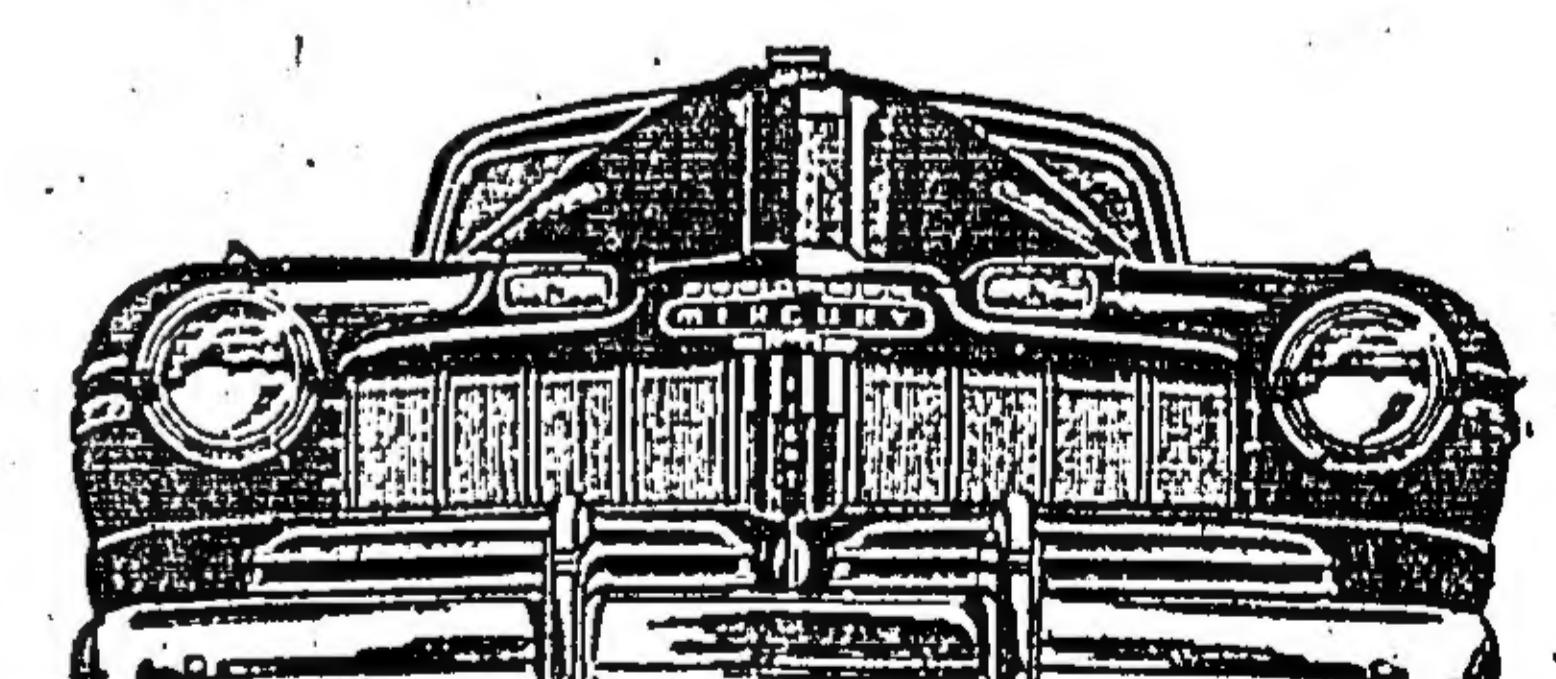


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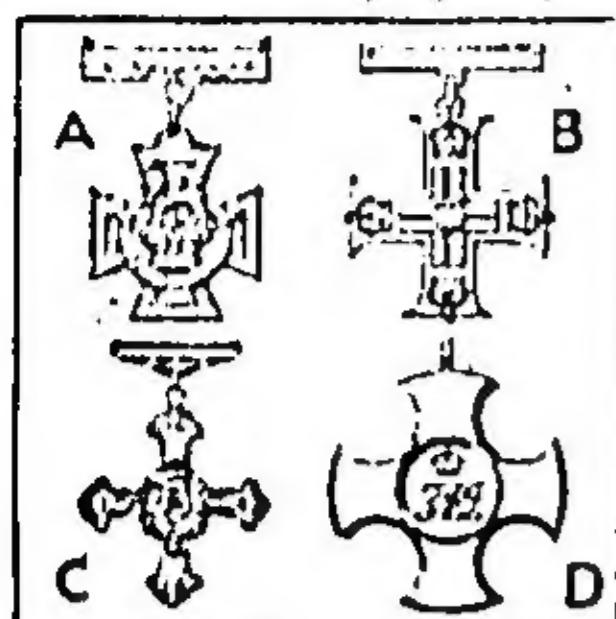
OTHER GAMES
Other games of last week featured the conspicuous return to the picture of the Philippines, who humbled the VRC Swimmers 14 runs to 13. The winners had a big lead until the last

Today
Men's "B" Division
CBA ground—4 p.m. Rexes v. Daredevils.
Tomorrow
Men's "B" Division
CBA ground—9.30 a.m. VRC v. Canadians, 11.15 a.m. South China v. Madcaps.
Recrelo football ground—11.15 a.m. Rogers v. St. Joseph's.
Recrelo softball diamond—11.15 a.m. Recrelo v. Filipinos.
Today
Women's Division
Marina ground—2.30 p.m. Madcap Aces v. Madcap Bees.

Are You Sure?

Answers on Page 10

1. "Yes, We Have No Bananas" was the song hit of—
1917, 1923, 1929, 1933, 1937?
2. Which one of these words was left to us by famous pillars—
Gallop, trot, canter, lope?
3. To make a hill you would use—
Steak and onions, finger and thumb, frit-sau, lemon sole?



4. Can you identify these decorations? They are the—
V.C., G.M., M.C., D.F.C.,
M.M., D.S.C., G.C., A.F.C.,
D.S.O.?

5. Which of these Ministers fill today the same offices to which they were appointed in 1945?

- Sir Stafford Cripps, Mr. A. V. Alexander, Mr. Ernest Bevin, Viscount Addison, Mr. G. Tomlinson?

6. The original Leicester-square is at—
Pembury in Kent, Leicester, London?

7. Nominations for appointments to Church of England bishoprics are made by—
The King, Archbishop of Canterbury, Bishop of London, Prime Minister?

8. The first notable person to be killed in a railway accident was—
Admiral, bishop, M.P., general?

9. One of these classical musicians also writes popular dance music—
Mozart, Mendelssohn, Helmut Lachenmann?

10. The terms bully, good 'un, pepperbox, and black-guard cut are all used in—
Hockey?

Irving Berlin Decorated

Irving Berlin, dean of American song writers, was recently decorated with the cross of Knighthood of the French Legion of Honour for achievements in music.

The cross was pinned on his lapel by Alexandre De Mauzière, French Consul in Los Angeles.—Associated Press.

POCKET CARTOON by OSBERT LANCASTER



By C. V. R. THOMPSON

1863 and all that

NEW YORK, Feb. 1.

THERE is not a chance of Britain's loan to America being paid back.

The loan—£3,000,000 at 5 per cent. interest—was made in 1863.

The borrowers were the Southern States the losers in America's Civil War.

This loan is news today, because throughout the South there is a false rumour that Washington is paying out Civil War notes.

For a joke the Congress post office sent a Southerner's letter demanding redemption of his Civil War five-dollar note to Georgia's Congressman, Prince Preston.

On a sentimental impulse Preston pocketed the worthless note, and posted a real five dollars.

That was a week ago. Today Congressman Preston can scarcely get into his office for the stacks of letters asking for similar "redemption."

FRIENDS of General Douglas MacArthur today began a campaign to prove that a man of 68 is not too old to be President. They warned that the general will make a dramatic dash home from Japan in Mid-March to address Congress on how America can prosper.

DREAD is going up again to 18 a loaf. That is an 80 percent rise since 1940. The cause is speculation in wheat.

The Old Folk—by JAMES BARTLETT

Loneliness makes life so hard

LONDON. THAT'S the happiest story I've seen in the newspaper for years," said the man beside me in the train. He pointed to a news item headed "Good Neighbours." It reported that houses on a new Daventry housing estate are to alternate with bungalows so that old people in the BUNGALOWS will have young people in the HOUSES to run errands.

In these eight lines Mr Ronald Shaw, himself an old-age pensioner from Watford, recognized an unusual awareness of a problem which seldom finds its way into the headlines...the problem of making life happy for the old folk.

He was surprised when I told him that that week six governors of the new National Corporation for the Care of Old People would meet for the first time to plan how they can best spend £500,000 in the next few years.

Their task directly affects one in every seven of our population. We have sufficient elderly people in this country to merit one day a week as Old People's Day, devoted to their interests.

There are 5,500,000 elderly people—men over 65 and women over 60. Perhaps they are too quiet about themselves. Even many old people who live alone with only 26s a week retirement pension make little complaint.

LIVES ALONE

MR GEORGE WATSON, 69-year-old retired builder's foreman, whom I met in Lincoln's Inn-fields feeding the sparrows, is one of them.

A widower, he lives alone at St Pancras, visited by his married daughter at week-ends. Otherwise he does his own shopping, looks after himself. This is how he spends his 26s a week. ("I brought up a family on that much before 1914.")

	s. d.
Bread	7 0
Fuel and light	2 6
Rationed goods	2 1
Points goods	1 9
Meat	1 2
Bread (12 loaves)	1 11
Milk (2 pints)	9
Vegetables	2 0
Fish	8
Matches, soap, etc.	1 0
	£1 0 0½

This leaves him 5s, 11½d, which goes partly in fares and five half-pints of beer.

He is now waiting like so many pensioners, for the cheap tobacco concession. He does not smoke. Never has, but he says "I can't see how I could, even if I wanted to."

But Mr Watson thought I was wrong to talk about money. Like most old people, he has an independent mind, even if he has not independent means. He said: "It's not

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ARE YOU SURE?
ANSWERS

Questions on Page 9

1. Canterbury gallop, from the pace of the pilgrims. 2. Finger and thumb, Filip. 3. A blow with the nail of the finger, forced from the ball of the thumb. 4. (a) V.C.; (b) M.C.; (c) D.F.C.; (d) D.S.C. 5. Mr Ernest Bevin, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs. 6. Penshurst, Kent. 7. Prime Minister, 8. M.P. for Liverpool, William Huskisson, killed by the Rocket, 1830. 9. Helfetz. 10. Flies.

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

Solution of yesterday's puzzle.—

Across: 1, Ambulance; 6, Seed-pearl; 8, Saturday; 10, Establish; 11, Ampul; 14, Dart; 15, Ingle; 18, Atrocious; 20, Self; 21, See 7 Down; 22, See 1 Down.

Down: 1 and 22, As dead as a mutton; 2, Messmate; 3, Beat; 4, Nadir; 5, Crash; 7 and 21, Public house; 8, Taft; 12, Onion; 13, Reset; 15, Gout; 17, Lush; 18, Oft.

**Zoo now has
merry widow**



FEW animals in the London Zoo have had a worse run of luck than Mary, the "widow" orang-outang, whose picture you see here. Since her arrival in 1930 she has lost two husbands, one male companion and an adopted baby.

As a result of these disappointments Mary began to mope. She spent so much time buried under her straw that she was seldom seen by visitors, and keepers became anxious about her condition.

Now they are worrying no longer. The other day there arrived from the East, Spider, a two-year-old male orang, and keepers introduced this lively youngster to Mary.

The change in the old widow is great. She adopted the "baby," and now spends all her time mothering it and playing with it—to the delight of every visitor to the monkey house.

At bedtime she makes up a nest of straw, and pushes the "baby" into it.

BOOKS

WHATEVER has happened to our writers of thrillers? Have they all died, or retired, on their ample savings? Why do they write no more?

Having watched the stream of post-war fiction flow, or rather trickle, past, I can recall hardly one example of this ancient popular and surely most estimable type of story.

What is the explanation?

Is it associated with the remarkable ascendancy of women in modern novel-writing? For we can assume that no woman wants to write a thriller, or could do so if she tried. On the other hand women can—and Miss Vera Caspary does—write detective stories. See below.

Or is it simply that the type of flamboyant imagination which the thriller demands is temporarily, in abeyance, or out of fashion in literary circles?

It is certainly not out of fashion with the public. There the taste for the full-blooded story of danger—the narrative which plays upon the reader's nerves and conquers his incredulity—is still alive and hearty. What a welcome it will give to the first writer with the warmth and fertility of invention which creation of this kind of fiction demands!

But, at present, this public is not being catered for. And to that extent, writers and publishers are falling down on the job. There is no modern equivalent of Dumas' Monte Cristo, Jules Verne's Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea, Conan Doyle's The Lost World, Buchanan's Greenmantle, or H. G. Wells' grand series of scientific shockers.

The Jury—which includes one successful murderer, and a religious fanatic—arrive with difficulty at their verdict. Mr Postgate misses the point of irony and grim humour of the trial.

Verdict of Twelve was first published in the summer of 1940. It is one of the best detective stories I have ever read. It is amusing, intelligent and even brilliant. In the absence of thrillers, we must do the best we can.

LIBRARY LIST

Season in the Sun, Wolcott Gibbs (Heinemann, 6s. ed.). Collected stories and sketches by a bright star of American humor. Some of the fiercest reviews in all books, theatre and movies can be found within these covers. Highly recommended, parades.

On Becoming a Writer, Vera Brittain (Hutchinson, 10s. 6d.).

A good introduction to the craft, based upon wide experience and as instruct.

The Art of Practical Gamesmanship, Stephen Potter (Hart-Davis, 6s.).

A good book, but desirable art of winning games still.

The worse player should have a motive for doing so—Philip had an equally strong motive for murdering his detected nut. And it is just

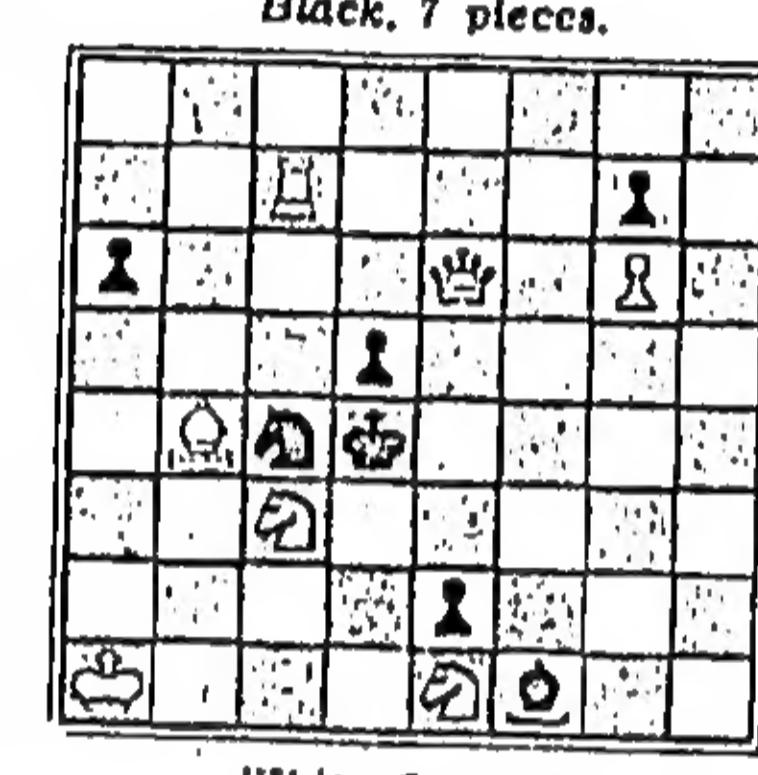
possible that he killed himself by accident.

The Jury—which includes one successful murderer, and a religious fanatic—arrive with difficulty at their verdict. Mr Postgate misses the point of irony and grim humour of the trial.

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CHESS PROBLEM

By P. H. BARRON
Black, 7 pieces.



White, 7 pieces.

White to play and mate in two.

Solution to yesterday's problem:

1. B—K12. 1... KxKt; 2. K—B3; 1... K—K14; 2. R—QK6 (ch).

DUMB-BELLS
REGISTERED U.S. PATENT OFFICE

ARE YOU AFRAID
OF MY COOKING,
M'AM? I NOTICE
BEFORE EVERY
MEAL YOU ALL
START PRAYING!



**McKENNEY
ON BRIDGE**

Avoid Becoming A Formula Player

By WILLIAM E. MCKENNEY

♦ K 73	♦ Q 104	♦ A K Q J 83
♦ K 6	♦ Q 862	♦ A K J 10 4
♦ K J 9 8	♦ 0	♦ A 7 5 3
♦ 10 0	♦ Dealer	♦ 7 4 2
	Kaplan	♦ A Q J 10 8 4 3 2
	Q 5	♦ None
	♦ 0 5	Tournament—Neither vul.
South	West	North
1 ♠ Pass	2 ♣ Pass	East
2 ♦ Pass	3 N.T.	Pass
4 ♣ Pass	5 ♣ Pass	Pass
6 ♣ Double	Pass	Pass
	Opening—	2 29

In bridge it is not desirable to be come known as a player who always can be counted upon to do things strictly according to formula. Very your style of bidding once in a while. False-card occasionally. In other words, keep your opponents guessing.

Of course one can carry this idea too far. Fred Kaplan of New York, one of the Life Masters, can really pitch some fast ones to his partner. One might think his aim at times was to torture his partner, but unquestionably he succeeds in getting his opponents mixed up.

Todays hand came up at the Mayfair Bridge Club the other night. With nine spades and no diamonds, Kaplan opened the bidding with a diamond. His two-spade bid over two clubs was a reverse bid, showing a strong hand and forcing his partner to bid again.

He ran into a pretty good holding in the North hand, and when North refused to accept the sign-off of four spades and bid five clubs, Kaplan decided to gamble on the slam.

West made the one lead that would decide the contract. Kaplan played a low heart from dummy.

East had no way to figure that Kaplan had nine spades and no diamonds. The ace of diamonds looked good to him, and he decided that he could win the hand more than one trick. To keep a tenace position over the king of hearts, he played the ten-spot on the first trick. Kaplan won, led a club to dummy, cashing the ace, king and queen of clubs, and discarded his other heart on the third club.

He knew that West held the king of spades, as he wanted not have doubled without a trump trick. Kaplan's hope was that West did not hold three spades to the king. After trumping the third club trick, West came back with another heart, but it was too late. Kaplan trumped, laid down the ace of trumps, caught the king and spread the hand for the balance of the tricks.

Of course East should have gone up with the ace of hearts on the first trick. He knew that he had a chance to make the ace of hearts or the ace of diamonds, and that his partner must have a trump trick to justify a double of the slam contract.

NEW RECORDS

HAYDN'S Quartet in C major is played with feeling and artistry by The Griller String Quartet; the recording is equally good. (Decca K. 1008-9.) Margaret Ritchie brings rare delight with her singing of Schubert's "The Shepherd on the Rock." The clarinet obbligato is played with skill and subtlety by Reginald Kell, and the accompaniment is handled tactfully by Gerald Moore. (HMV C. 3688.)

Gasper Cassador, also accompanied by Mr Moore, offers some first-rate cello playing of "Indian Lament" from Dvorak's Sonatas in G major and his own "Dance of the Green Devil." (Columbia LB. 60.) ROBERT TRENDINICK.

Rupert's Silver Trumpet—7



Dinkie acts so curiously that Rupert follows and finds himself led back to a part of the Common. As he creeps over a grassy ridge he sees a lovely model airplane standing there. "My, what a beauty!" he gasps. "I've never seen such a lovely model. Whoever made it is a genius." "There's no one else in sight. No wonder you were excited, Dinkie. I wonder if it really flies. How long can it have been here?" Rather timidly they go nearer to look at it.

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Skeleton Crossword

CLUES ACROSS

- 2 P a c t i o n
2 pants? Not necessarily.
- 8 Blonde fol-
lowed me
May in the
West End.
- 9 Did it give
the Anchors
Aweigh? Is
it the blues?
- 10 A little bird
and an old
giant.
- 11 In a sense,
the man
is taller
made.
- 12 At the very
bottom of
things is
the O.W.O.
here.
- 13 Does it bloom on September
29th? (two words).
- 14 Irresistible eat-
er.
- 15 Are you tired?
Then you
won't hold this.
- 16 Cock-fight at full speed, by
any appearance.
- 17 Entomological? To a
degree.
- 18 Who gets a bad egg in
Holland.
- 19 Posture? No, live.
- 20 Capital dues on the stage.
- 21 Lured both in England and
Norway.
- 22 Trade or ultra-delicate
silk.
- 23 Such a tall
one! Turn the
clock round, it will kick the
bucket again.
- 24 They have their points, hard.
- 25 Bookmaker on the run?
- 26 Party or punitive military
action.
- 27 Look out to make any
one stagger back, it may well
be bitter to taste.
- 28 She should turn up if she's
hungry.
- 29 Like sign for Eugene.
- 30 Water-carrier of the new era.

CLUES DOWN

- 1 I follow a bouncer or judge.
- 2 You've said it.
- 3 You may find in Bed-
minster.
- 4 You may make it an extreme
sport.
- 5 But he doesn't produce coarse
language.
- 6 Water-carrier of the new era.

In this crossword the black squares as well as the words, are left for the solver to fill in. Four black squares and four clue numbers have been inserted to give you a start.

The pattern formed by the black squares is symmetrical; the top half of the pattern matches the bottom half and the two sides correspond. So you can fill in 12 more black squares at once to correspond with those given.

Since there is no 1 Across the third square from the left in the top line and its three corresponding ones can be filled in.

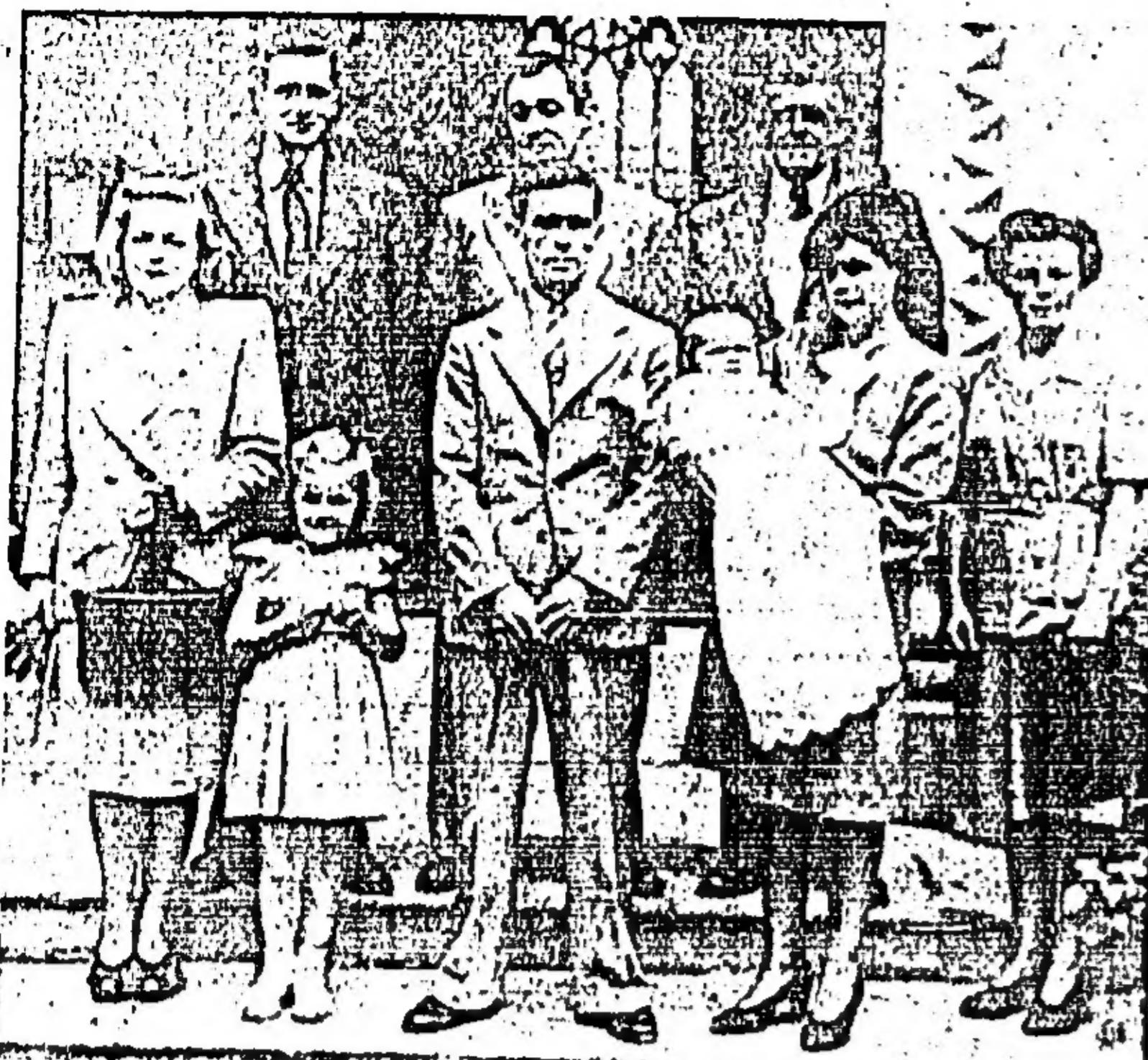
Note also that there is a 23 Down as well as Across, so that the square above that containing the figure 23 and the other three must also be blackened.

Two-letter words are not used except in phrases.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

M	A	R	E	A	N	D	H	O	U	N	D	S
C	U	I	O	L	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I
S	E	N	C	E	N	C	E	N	C	E	E	E
N	I	T	A	M	T	A	T	A	T	A	A	A
I	E	P	R	E	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
P	R	I	T	A	T	R	U	M	B	R	E	E
R	I	T	A	T	R	U	M	B				

• WEEK-END PICTORIAL •



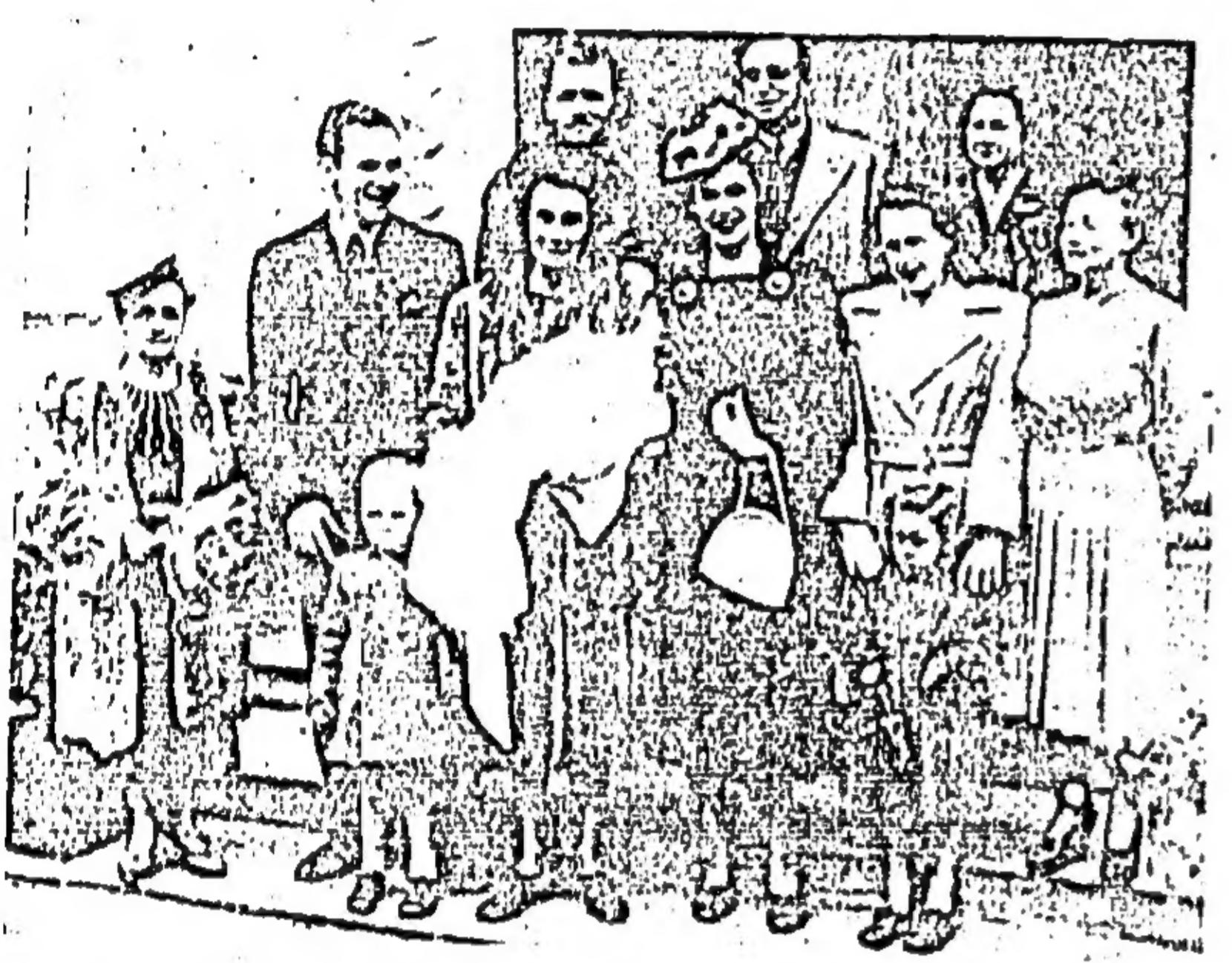
PICTURE taken after the christening at St John's Cathedral of Susan Julia, infant daughter of Mr and Mrs M. Stonhouse. (Photo: Ming Yuen)



AN excellent play featuring Red Indians, Cubs and Scouts, and several interesting boxing contests, made up the programme of entertainment presented by the 4th Hongkong Wolf Cub Pack on Monday, in aid of Cub funds. Above: a scene from the play. Below: Contestants in the Flea Weight section—Nigel "Jock" Walker and John Kinniburgh. (Photos: Golden Studio)



INTERPORT DINNER—The Hon. Mr A. Morris, CBE., president of the Hongkong Football Association, speaking at the Interport dinner held in the Hongkong Hotel last Saturday. In the course of the evening, Hongkong, which won the Interport, was presented with the "Hongkong Telegraph" Cup by the Shanghai captain. (Photo: Golden Studio)



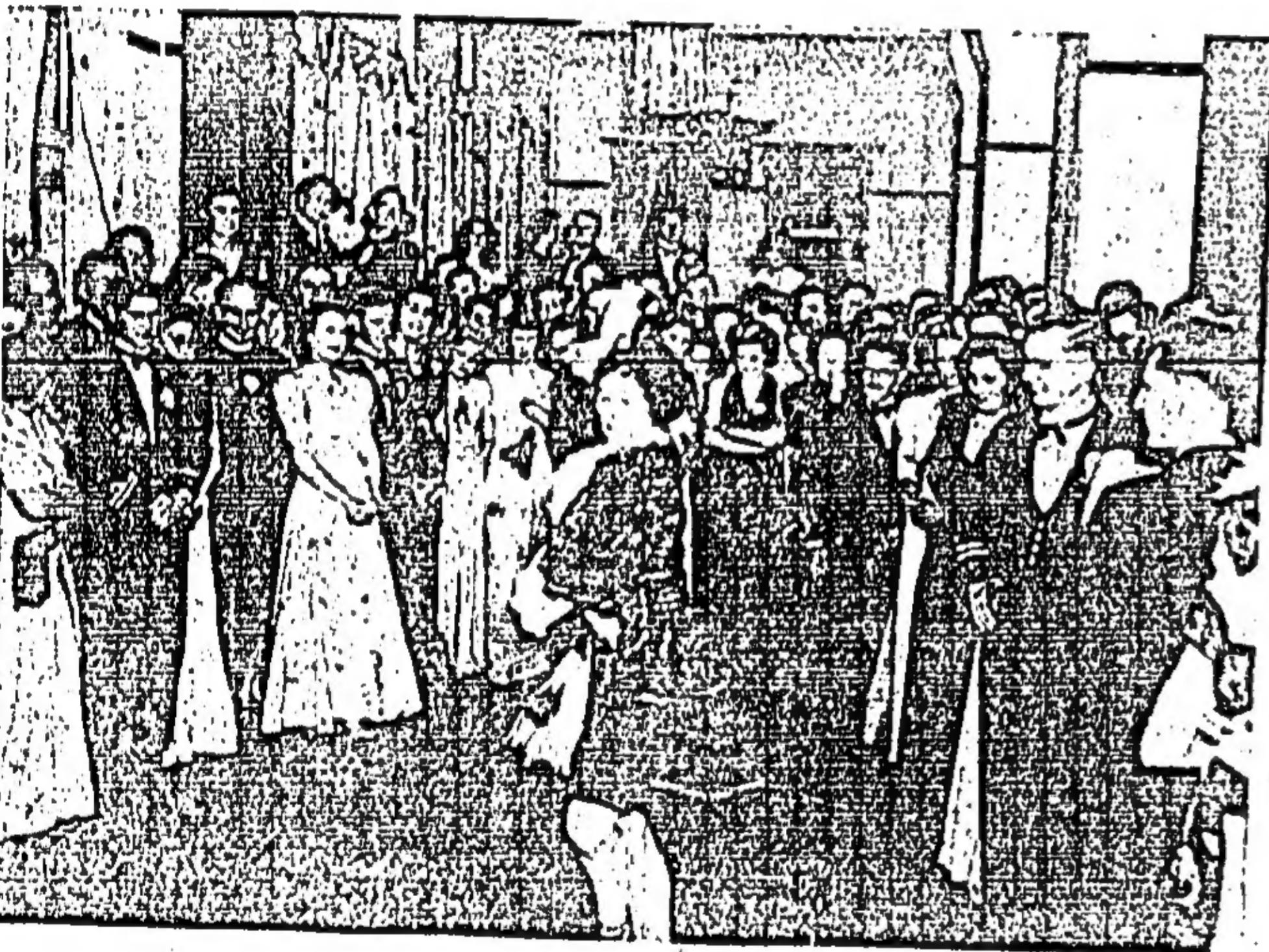
CAROL ANN MARY, infant daughter of Mr and Mrs J. V. G. Mitchell, was christened last week at St John's Cathedral. (Photo: Ming Yuen)



ABOVE, are Mr and Mrs Ronald Lo, whose wedding took place at the Peninsula Hotel last week. The bride was formerly Miss Irene Wong.



MR F. N. Hill, Principal Officer of Stanley Prison, and his bride, Miss F. Abbas, Principal Wardress of Laichikok Female Prison. (Photo: Ming Yuen)



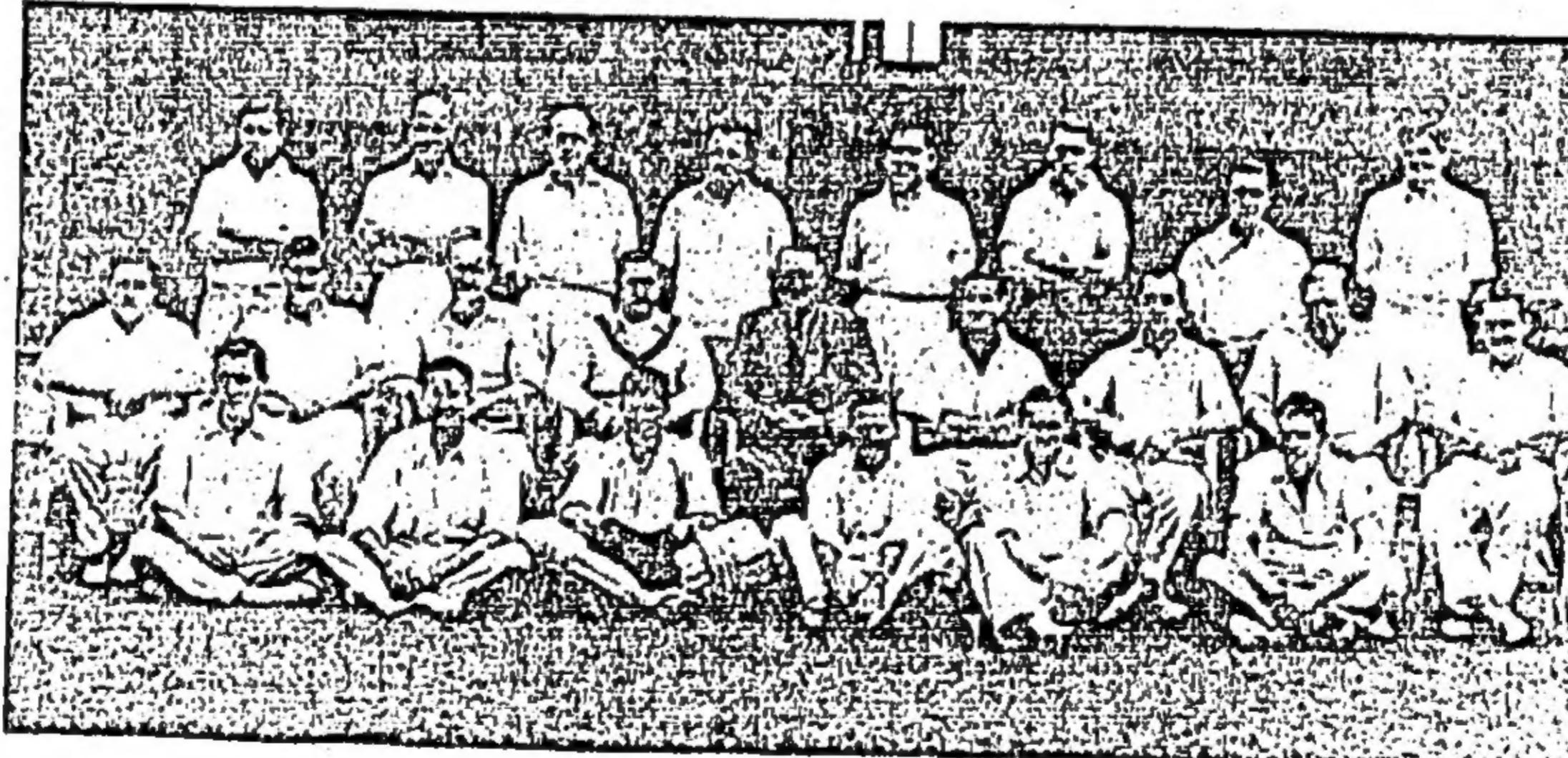
A Highland dance was one of the popular items of entertainment presented during the V.A.D.'s Valentine Day dance. (Photo: Mee Cheung)



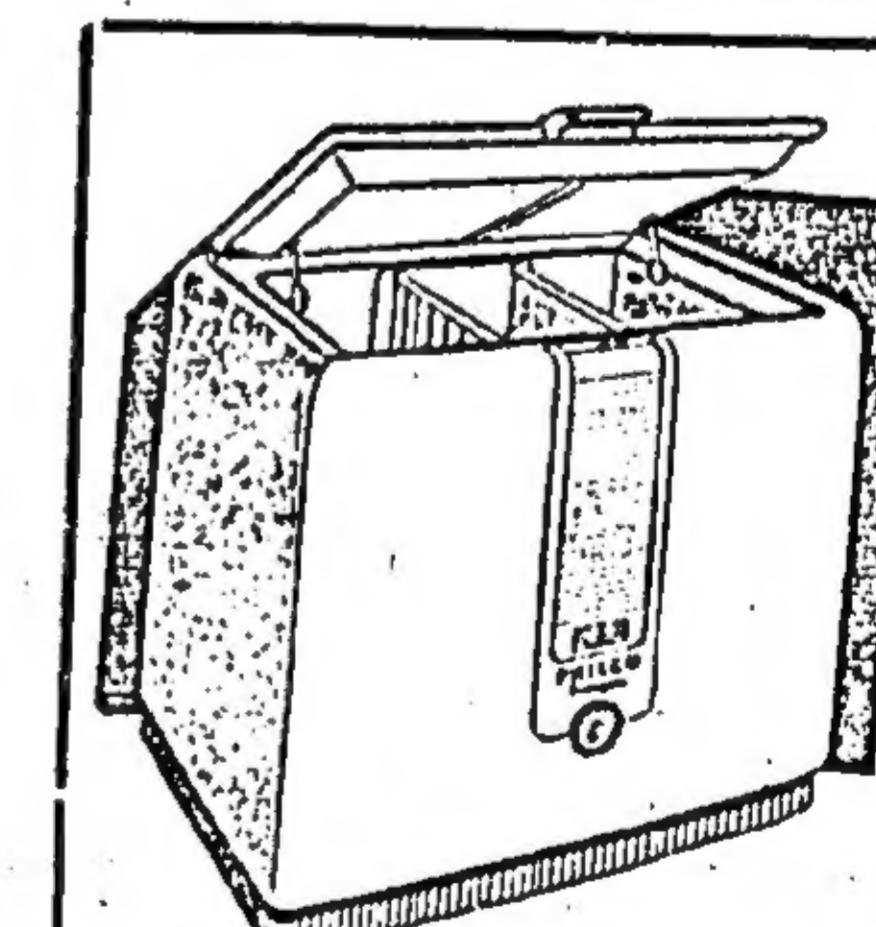
Mr P. S. Ingham (arrow) was guest of honour at a farewell dinner given last week by members of the Hongkong Football Club at the clubhouse. (Photo: Golden Studio)



PAUL FRANCIS, son of Dr and Mrs F. H. Rand, was christened last week at St John's Cathedral. (Photo: Ming Yuen)



TEAMS representing the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank and Jardine, Matheson and Co., Ltd., which met in a friendly cricket match last Sunday. The Bank won. (Photo: Golden Studio)



Keeps Food
Fresh
for Months

PHILCO FREEZER

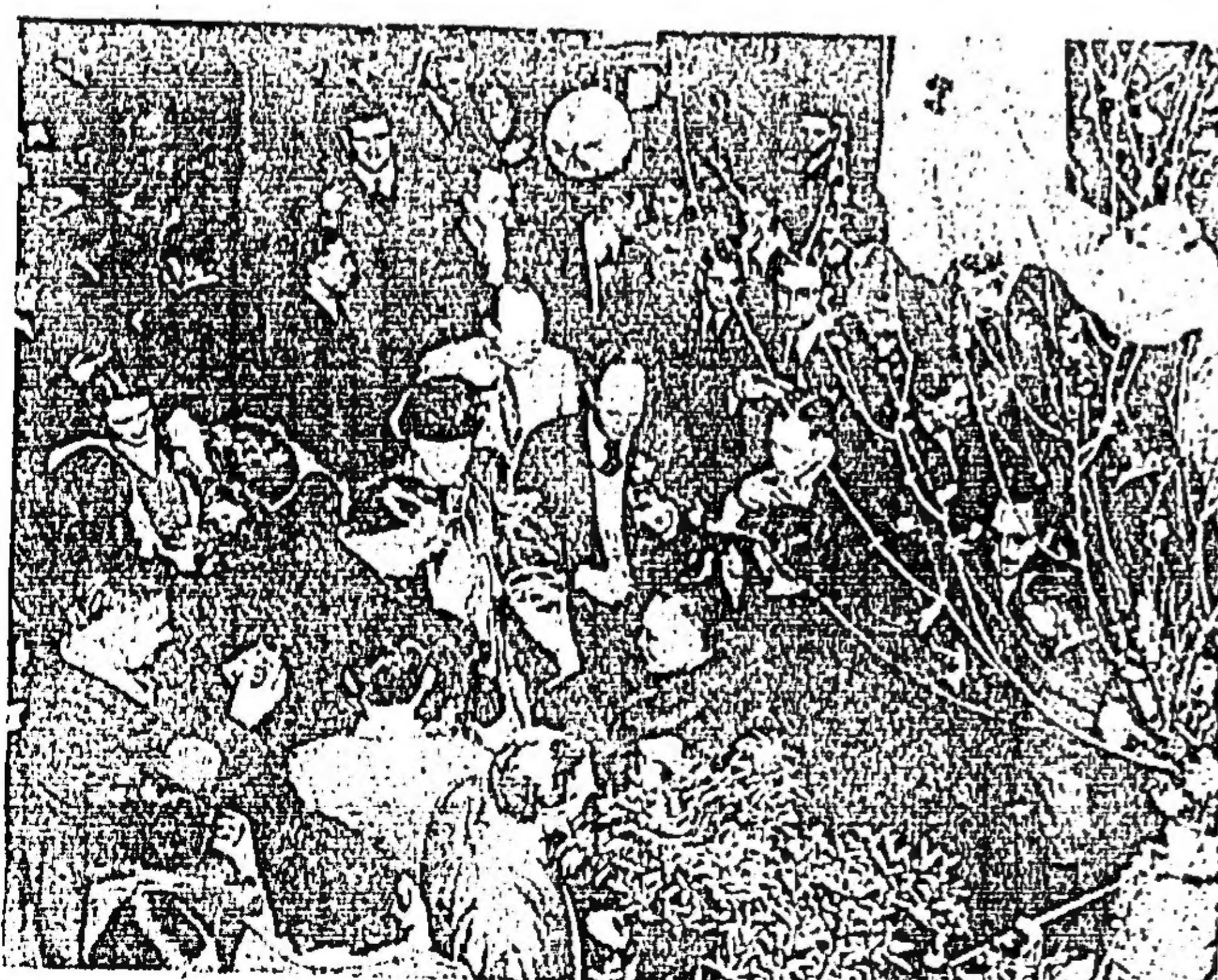
Saves Time!
Saves Work!
Saves Money!

The New Sensational Philco Freezer is what every housewife has hoped for. It is like having a food store in the kitchen.

Keeps food safely and conveniently for long periods of time with all the flavour and freshness intact!

Stocks Now Available

GILMAN & COMPANY LTD.
REFRIGERATION DEPARTMENT
Tol. 33461
Gloucester Arcade



AN excellent picture of the large company that attended the Chinese New Year reception given by A. Wing and Company at their offices in Connaught Road last week. (Photo: Mee Cheung)



SHOOT WINNERS—Royal Marine detachments of the British Pacific Fleet shot for the Pekin Cup at Stonewallers rifle range on Monday. Above is the team from HMS Sussex, who carried away the trophy. (Official Photograph)

BAO DAI ON WAY BACK TO HONGKONG

Paris, Feb. 20.—Bao Dai, ex-Emperor of Annam, today left Cannes, on the French Riviera, by plane for Geneva. He is on his way to Hongkong.

Bao Dai went to Cannes last week after it was announced that his projected discussion with M. Emile Bollaert, French High Commissioner for Indo-China, on a French cruiser in the Bay ofAlong, off the coast of North Indo-China, would take place shortly.

Last week in Paris, Bao Dai had conversations with the French Premier, M. Robert Schuman, and other Ministers and officials on the terms of a peace settlement. In French Indo-China, where fighting has been going or for over a year between French forces and Indo-Chinese Nationalists.

In January, Bao Dai met M. Bollaert in Geneva for talks which were believed to include the return of his throne.

Completing Independence

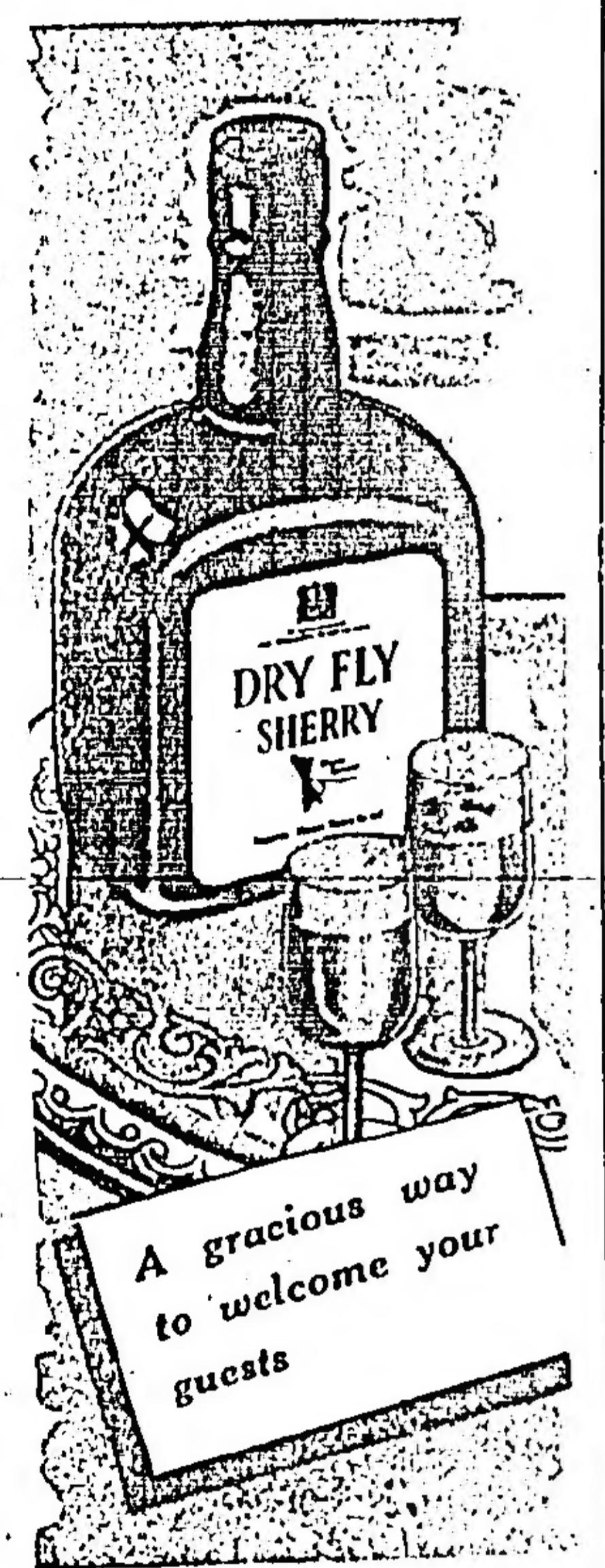
Commenting on the recent conversations in Paris between the French Premier and Bao Dai, the Vietnamese (Indo-Chinese Nationalists) newspaper, *Danh Minh*, today said it had reason to believe that Bao Dai had asked for complete independence for a unified Vietnam, including the sovereign administration of Vietnamese diplomacy, economy and finances, it was reported from Saigon.

The French military offensive recently launched in the Plaines des Junes (the marshland west of Saigon), the paper said that the Franco-Indo-Chinese problem could not be settled by the army, but only peacefully.

A large-scale French offensive, even if successful, would not necessarily entail political advantages, the paper wrote.

It added: "Is it the French Government's idea to exercise diplomatic pressure on Vietnam by means of military victories?"—Reuter.

FINDLATORS



Gilman & Co., Ltd.
TELEPHONE 31140

NOTICE

THE "STAR" FERRY CO., LTD.

Notice To Shareholders

NOTICE is hereby given that the forty-sixth Ordinary Yearly Meeting of the Members of this Company will be held at the Office of Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co., Ltd., on Wednesday the 17th day of March, 1948, at Noon, to receive the Report of the Board of Directors and Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31st December, 1947, to elect Directors and to appoint Auditors.

Notice is also given that the Transfer Books of the Company will be closed from the 4th March, 1948, to the 17th March, 1948, both days inclusive.

By Order of the
Board of Directors.

C. E. TERRY,
Manager & Secretary.

Hongkong, 20th February, 1948.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA ARMED COUP PLOT REVEALED

Government Crisis

London, Feb. 20.—The discovery of a plot to carry out an armed coup in Czechoslovakia was announced tonight in a joint statement by M. Vaclav Nosek, Czech Minister of the Interior, and General Ludvik Svoboda, Minister of Defence, according to Prague Radio.

SPORT:

LUCKLESS DISPLAY BY M.C.C.

Georgetown, British Guiana, Feb. 20.—Losing Len Hutton to the fifth ball of the day without addition to his Thursday score of 128, the M.C.C. apart from J. C. Laker and J. H. Wardle, shaped so disappointingly that they were all out for 332 runs in their first innings against British Guiana on the second day of their match here.

In reply, the home side has scored 144 for the loss of four wickets by the close of play.

Most of the tourists' batsmen did not appear at all confident against steady bowling, and six wickets fell for the addition of only 63 runs to their overnight score of 200 for four. Of these runs, Laker and Wardle made 48.

Laker, who was seven not out overnight, made a useful 20, while Wardle, in a bright knock, scored 35.

H. P. Bayley, the British Guiana captain, who toured England in 1939, alone remained solid in the home side's innings, and by the close of play was still unbeaten with 60 to his credit.—Reuter.

Sheffield Shield Match

Melbourne, Feb. 20.—The bowling of Douglas Ring, William Johnson and Sam Loxton for Victoria against South Australia, who scored 281 for six, on the first day of their Sheffield Shield match here today, suggested that they were fortunate that the team for England had already been chosen.

The Victorian fielding, as well as the bowling, was below standard and P. Ridings, whose 113 not out was the only colourful feature of the day's play, was missed three times. Ring took three for 78, Ian Johnson two for 50 and William Johnston one for 45. Loxton had 38 runs knocked off him without taking a wicket.—Reuter.

PETER KANE LOSES

Manchester, Feb. 20.—Peter Kane of Great Britain, declared by many as the outstanding British fighter of 1947, lost his European boutweight title to Guido Ferracina, the Italian champion, at Belle Vue, Manchester, tonight by a point decision after 15 rounds.

Ferracina's victory must have been by the narrowest of margin, but few would quarrel with the verdict, which ended Kane's amazing "comeback". In the past 18 months he has won all his fights.

Tonight, Kane was a much more subdued boxer. Gone was the old zip and fire, which characterised his more recent ring battles.

Although Kane adopted tactics familiar to himself by pressing his opponent at every opportunity, he found the lively Italian too skilful and too fast.—Reuter.

Soong To Become Premier?

(Continued from Page 1)
a free hand in naming his cabinet. Political observers base their predictions along the following lines:

With American aid about to become a reality, China needs her most able economist and her best-known and respected statesman abroad to handle this end of American aid.

That the talents of the Governor of Kwangtung at a time when China has not the financial resources to carry out any large projects.

The recent "private" visit of General Wu Teh-chen, Secretary-General of the Kuomintang Party, has also aroused much interest.

The same sources predict that should Dr Soong relinquish his present post, his most likely successor would be General Wu, who was Governor when the Japanese occupied Canton in the autumn of 1938.—Reuter.

CHURCH NOTICE

GOSPEL HALL

(Buddell Street, Hongkong)
(Between the Bank of China and the National City Bank of New York.)
Sunday 11 a.m. Breaking of Bread.
(for Believers only).
Sunday 8 p.m. Bible Study.
Tuesday 8 p.m. Prayer Meeting.
All English speaking friends are welcome.

Printed and published by Farbrosky FRANCIS for and on behalf of South China Morning Post Limited at 1-3 Wyndham Street, City of Victoria in the Colony of Hongkong.



"No Turkish, Sir—only Virginia!"

Russian Accusations Called Tiresome

Berlin, Feb. 20.—At today's Allied Control Council, Governor Lucius D. Clay, the American Military Governor of Germany, described as "tiresome" the repeated Soviet charges or delay in demilitarisation.

The Western delegates at today's meeting—General Pierre Koenig (France), Lieutenant General H. C. D. Brownjohn, substituting for General Sir Brian Robertson (Britain) and General Clay—said the four-power inspection in principle had not been rejected. Only the plan put forward at a previous meeting by Marshal Sokolovsky had been turned down.

They had rejected the plan because of Soviet accusations in its preamble.

General Clay said today, in a statement with which the British and French Military Governor associated themselves, that he was not disposed to discuss a document containing accusations such as those in the Soviet plan.

"We hear constant rumours of ship construction in places like Rostock, of uranium mining in Saxony and of questionable war equipment being produced in the Soviet zone," General Clay said.

Though these were only rumours, he declared they were helping to destroy four-power confidence, and it would be a good thing to clear them up.—Reuter.

German Assets Claim

London, Feb. 20.—The United States delegation to the conference of the Big Four Foreign Ministers' deputies opening here today thinks Russia's claims to German assets excessive, it was learned here today.

The United States is affected as the source of economic aid to Austria, and the impression is that the Americans consider Russia's terms too steep a price for the evacuation of foreign troops from Austria.

sence of adequate fire patrols; fire drills for crew (especially bearing in mind the frequent changes) were too seldom carried out, and inadequately conducted. One witness said he never did any fire drill. Some time prior to this, the chief officer states he turned on the steam smothering valve, but he was of the opinion that there was little or no steam in the pipes. This was not reported to the engine room, as well as possible, as the steam smothering system was part of the auxiliary supply which was on at all times, there must have been no steam in the boilers. This appears to be rather extraordinary considering the first fire had been extinguished at 7.30 a.m. when there was 60 lbs. of steam pressure, although the pressure of water decreased soon after the hoses were applied, no effort was made to use the hand pump as by this time (about 9 a.m.) the smoke from No. 1 hold was increasing so much that it was felt it would be ineffective. The Chief Engineer also feared by this time that the settling tank might explode. No flares were seen anywhere. It was decided to abandon ship at 9.30 a.m. Flares were first seen coming from the forward room, about 10.30 a.m. an hour after the abandonment.

CAUSE UNKNOWN

The cause of this second fire, which eventually gutted the vessel, is also unknown. The Chinese crackers, which was the only item of dangerous goods on board, were stored in the forward 'tween decks. They took no part in the initial spread of the fire, although after abandonment, and the fire became generalised, they were heard exploding. Throughout the enquiry, the possibility of the No. 1 hold bulkhead becoming red-hot as a result of the first fire with the result that either the cargo next to that bulkhead (or near it) or the oil in the settling tank, or the communicating pipe, becoming ignited, was kept in mind. But we have no concrete evidence of that. That may be the explanation of the cause of this second fire. We do not know. But it is, to say the least of it, regrettable that no senior officer on board thought it worth while to give orders that the compartment adjoining the area of the first fire, be kept under observation as from say, 6.30 a.m. If that had been done, even though fire had threatened to develop at say 7.30 a.m. with 60 lbs. of steam pressure then in the steam smothering system, we feel constrained to the belief that second fire need never have been allowed to develop in the way that it did.

Bearing in mind, of course, (a) the fact that repairs to the heater, jointing and other parts were carried out as recently as 27.1.48, (b) the fact that No. 1 filter, (Mak Kim Chun), although he did not go round tightening all coupling joints during the few days subsequent to 27.1.48 was cleaned there were no leaks, (c) the fact that those people who actually did go right into the stokehold, immediately after the first fire was extinguished, did not see any evidence of the bulkhead being red hot, although blackened, (d) the absence of any other evidence indicating definitely a nexus between the first and second fire and, (e) the fact that the Chief Officer's inexperience of what an oil fire looked and smells like, the fact of his repeated assertion, in a general way, that the smoke from both fires contained "gas," we feel bound to say that the possibility of incendiary cannot be definitely ruled out.

Owing to the very recent engagement of a new engine room crew and the irregularity of their sailing on, the Court was on its guard throughout the enquiry to test the bona fides of this aspect of the matter. There seems to be little room for any suspicion on that score. Indeed, some of the most specific and enlightening evidence was given by these new hands.

INADEQUATE FIRE PATROLS

A review of the existing instructions on the subject of fire and other emergency precautions reveals that some of these are either relaxed, or are not enforced with the same stringency in some of the smaller vessels plying in what is known as the "river trade," as in ocean-going vessels. In the present case we are satisfied there was a complete absence of Next Column

Austria, however, desperately anxious to get the foreigners out of the country, strongly favours an acceptance of the latest terms.

Russia's claims amount to two-thirds of the current oil output, two-thirds of the oil prospecting rights in Eastern Austria for 50 years and an oil refining capacity equal to 450,000 tons.

Russia is also claiming all assets of the Danube Steamship Company in Hungary, Rumania and Bulgaria, 25 percent of the company's assets in Austria and—the most onerous of all—the transfer to the Soviet Union of £50,000,000 in convertible currency in two years.—Reuter.

They Answered the Call

Have You?

HONGKONG WAR MEMORIAL FUND

Hon. Treasurers
Lowe, Bingham & Matthews
Mercantile Bank Bldg.

HsinKong So Findings

(Continued from Page 1)

portions that it was deemed inadvisable to open the lower hatch (thereby allowing additional air to enter the hold) with a view to ascertaining the cause of it; and all that was done was to play two hoses as well as possible on the hatch and hope for the best. Apparently these hoses had a fairly reasonable pressure of water to begin with, but the pressure gradually dwindled and eventually failed altogether about 9.20 a.m. Some time prior to this, the chief officer states he turned on the steam smothering valve, but he was of the opinion that there was little or no steam in the pipes. This was not reported to the engine room, as it was apparently assumed that, as the steam smothering system was part of the auxiliary supply which was on at all times, there must have been no steam in the boilers. This appears to be rather extraordinary considering the first fire had been extinguished at 7.30 a.m. when there was 60 lbs. of steam pressure, although the pressure of water decreased soon after the hoses were applied, no effort was made to use the hand pump as by this time (about 9 a.m.) the smoke from No. 1 hold was increasing so much that it was felt it would be ineffective. The Chief Engineer also feared by this time that the settling tank might explode. No flares were seen anywhere. It was decided to abandon ship at 9.30 a.m. Flares were first seen coming from the forward room, about 10.30 a.m. an hour after the abandonment.

It is within our knowledge that this is the third fire on a ship which has occurred in the waters of the Colony during the last year. And, in our opinion, the time has come for a review of all existing regulations and instructions on the subject of fire prevention, especially on ships of this class.

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